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JIDOSHA KABUSHIKI KAISHA, 1, Toyota-cho, Toyota-shi, Aichi 471-8571 (JP). **KAKO**, Jyunichi [JP/JP]; C/O TOYOTA JIDOSHA KABUSHIKI KAISHA, 1, Toyota-cho, Toyota-shi, Aichi 471-8571 (JP).

(74) **Agents:** AOKI, Atsushi et al.; A. AOKI, ISHIDA & ASSOCIATES, Toranomon 37 Mori Bldg., 5-1, Toranomon 3-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-8423 (JP).

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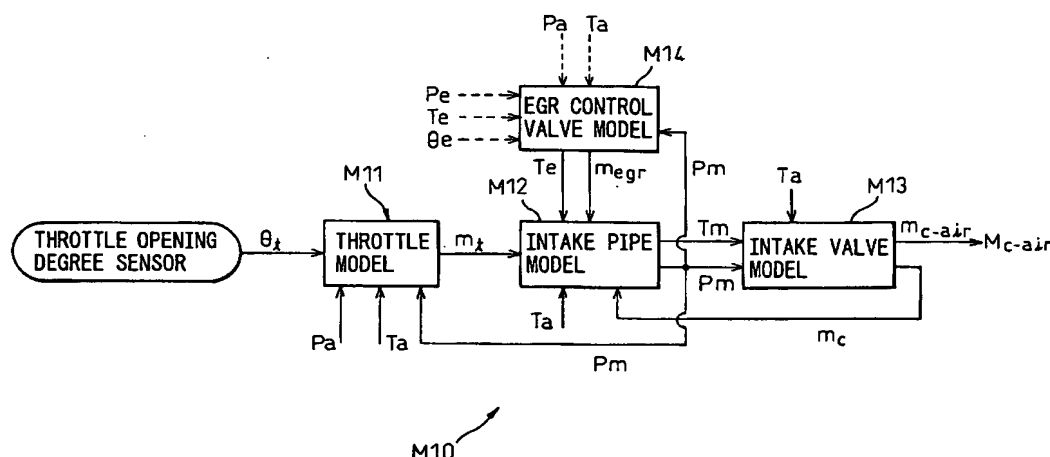
(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): TOYOTA JIDOSHA KABUSHIKI KAISHA [JP/JP]; 1, Toyota-cho, Tovota-shi, Aichi 471-8571 (JP).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) **Inventors/Applicants (for US only): KOBAYASHI, Daisuke [JP/JP]; C/O TOYOTA JIDOSHA KABUSHIKI KAISHA, 1, Toyota-cho, Toyota-shi, Aichi 471-8571 (JP). MUTO, Harufumi [JP/JP]; C/O TOYOTA JIDOSHA KABUSHIKI KAISHA, 1, Toyota-cho, Toyota-shi, Aichi 471-8571 (JP). EHARA, Masato [JP/JP]; C/O TOYOTA**

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: CYLINDER INFLOW EXHAUST GAS AMOUNT CALCULATION SYSTEM OF INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE AND INTAKE PASSAGE INFLOW EXHAUST GAS AMOUNT CALCULATION SYSTEM OF INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE



(57) Abstract: A cylinder inflow exhaust gas amount calculation system of an internal combustion engine provided with an intake passage, an exhaust passage, an exhaust gas recirculation passage connecting the intake passage and exhaust passage, and an exhaust gas flow rate control valve arranged in the exhaust gas recirculation passage for controlling the flow rate of the exhaust gas flowing in the exhaust gas recirculation passage, and the system calculating an amount of cylinder inflow exhaust gas defined as an amount of exhaust gas flowing into a cylinder, utilizing an amount of passage exhaust gas defined as an amount of exhaust gas passing through the exhaust gas flow rate control valve, wherein an amount of cylinder inflow exhaust gas is calculated considering the dead time corresponding to the time taken until the exhaust gas passing through the exhaust gas flow rate control valve reaches the cylinder and a tracking lag of a change in the amount of cylinder inflow exhaust gas with respect to a change in the amount of passage exhaust gas.



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DESCRIPTION

CYLINDER INFLOW EXHAUST GAS AMOUNT CALCULATION SYSTEM OF
INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE AND INTAKE PASSAGE INFLOW
5 EXHAUST GAS AMOUNT CALCULATION SYSTEM OF
INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

10 [0001] The present invention relates to a cylinder inflow exhaust gas calculation system of an internal combustion engine amount and an intake passage inflow exhaust gas amount calculation system of an internal combustion engine.

15 2. Description of the Related Art

[0002] An internal combustion engine wherein an exhaust passage and intake passage of the internal combustion engine are connected through an exhaust gas recirculation passage and an exhaust gas flow rate control valve for controlling the flow rate of the
20 exhaust gas flowing through the exhaust gas recirculation passage is arranged in the exhaust gas recirculation passage is disclosed in Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication (Kokai) No. 8-128359. In this internal
25 combustion engine, it is possible to introduce exhaust gas exhausted from a cylinder into the exhaust passage through this exhaust gas recirculation passage into the intake passage and thereby cause the exhaust gas to be recirculated into the cylinder. In an internal combustion
30 recirculating the exhaust gas into a cylinder in this way, to determine the amount of fuel injection so that the air-fuel ratio becomes the target air-fuel ratio, the ratio of the exhaust gas in the amount of gas charged in the cylinder (that is, the EGR rate) is calculated.

35 [0003] In Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication (Kokai) No. 8-128359, the EGR rate at the time of steady state operation is found in advance in the form of a map

and the EGR rate is found from this map at the time of steady state operation. Further, in Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication (Kokai) No. 8-128359, the EGR rate found from a map of the EGR rate at the time of steady state operation is utilized to estimate the EGR rate at the time of transient operation. Specifically, if the amount of exhaust gas passing through the exhaust gas flow rate control valve is called the "amount of passage gas", the ratio of the amount of passage gas found relating to the actual opening degree of the exhaust gas flow rate control valve with respect to the amount of passage gas found relating to the target opening degree of the exhaust gas flow rate control valve is multiplied with the EGR rate at the time of steady state operation to find the EGR rate at the time of transient operation.

[0004] That is, if the amount of passage gas found relating to the target opening degree of the exhaust gas flow rate control valve is represented by Q_t , the amount of passage gas found relating to the actual opening degree of the exhaust gas flow rate control valve is represented by Q_a , and the EGR rate at the time of steady state operation is represented by R_c , in Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication (Kokai) No. 8-128359, the EGR rate at the time of transient operation is found from $R = R_c \cdot Q_a / Q_t$. Further, in Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication (Kokai) No. 8-128359, note is taken of the fact that there is several minutes lag from when an instruction for changing the opening degree of the exhaust gas flow rate control valve is issued to when the opening degree of the exhaust gas flow rate control valve becomes the target opening degree and the EGR rate at the time of transient operation calculated exactly that amount of lag before is utilized as the EGR rate at the time of transient operation.

[0005] Summarizing the problems to be solved by the invention, in Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication (Kokai) No. 8-128359, the amount of the exhaust gas

passing through the exhaust gas flow rate control valve is utilized to estimate the EGR rate at the time of transient operation based on the EGR rate at the time of steady state operation. The amount of exhaust gas charged in the cylinder itself is not directly found. Therefore, when estimating the amount of exhaust gas charged in the cylinder from the EGR rate at the time of transient operation, it can be said that the precision of the estimated value is not that high. Further, sometimes there is variation in the response of the exhaust gas flow rate control valve. In this case, the precision of calculation of the amount of gas itself passing through the exhaust gas flow rate control valve ends up becoming low.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0006] An object of the present invention is to accurately calculate the amount of exhaust gas flowing into the cylinder of an internal combustion engine.

[0007] To attain the above object, according to a first aspect of the invention, there is provided a cylinder inflow exhaust gas amount calculation system of an internal combustion engine provided with an intake passage, an exhaust passage, an exhaust gas recirculation passage connecting the intake passage and exhaust passage, and an exhaust gas flow rate control valve arranged in the exhaust gas recirculation passage for controlling the flow rate of the exhaust gas flowing in the exhaust gas recirculation passage, and the system calculating an amount of cylinder inflow exhaust gas defined as an amount of exhaust gas flowing into a cylinder, utilizing an amount of passage exhaust gas defined as an amount of exhaust gas passing through the exhaust gas flow rate control valve, wherein an amount of cylinder inflow exhaust gas is calculated considering a dead time corresponding to the time taken until the exhaust gas passing through the exhaust gas flow rate control valve reaches the cylinder and a tracking lag of

a change in the amount of cylinder inflow exhaust gas with respect to a change in the amount of passage exhaust gas.

5 [0008] Preferably, the tracking lag is a first-order lag, and a time constant of the first-order lag and the dead time are changed in accordance with an engine speed.

[0009] Alternatively, preferably the internal combustion engine is provided with a plurality of cylinders, a ratio of an actual amount of cylinder inflow exhaust gas in each cylinder with respect to the
10 calculated amount of cylinder inflow exhaust gas is found in advance as a distribution constant, and the distribution constant is multiplied with the calculated amount of cylinder inflow exhaust gas to calculate the
15 amount of cylinder inflow exhaust gas in each cylinder.

[0010] Alternatively, preferably the internal combustion engine is provided with a plurality of cylinders, and the tracking lag and dead time are set for each cylinder.

20 [0011] Alternatively, preferably the internal engine is provide with an intake valve with a variable closing timing, and the setting of said tracking lag and the setting of said dead time are changed in accordance with a closing time of the intake valve.

25 [0012] Alternatively, preferably the flow rate of gas near an opening of an exhaust gas recirculation passage opening to the intake passage can be changed by one of a change of passage volume from the exhaust gas flow rate control valve to the intake valve in accordance with an
30 engine operating state and a change of a channel sectional area of the intake passage in accordance with the engine operating state, and the setting of the tracking lag and the setting of the dead time are changed in accordance with one of said passage volume and said
35 flow rate of gas.

[0013] Alternatively, preferably a flow rate of gas near an opening of an exhaust gas recirculation passage

opening to the intake passage can be changed by one of a change of passage volume from said exhaust gas flow rate control valve to said intake valve in accordance with an engine operating state and a change of a channel sectional area of said intake passage in accordance with the engine operating state, a function equation expressing the amount of passage exhaust gas by a function of the pressure in the intake passage, and a parameter other than the pressure in said intake passage is found and stored in advance, an amount of passage exhaust gas is calculated from the pressure in the intake passage utilizing the function equation, and the parameter other than the pressure in the intake passage is changed in accordance with one of said passage volume and said flow rate of gas.

[0014] According to a second aspect of the invention, there is provided a cylinder inflow exhaust gas amount calculation system of an internal combustion engine provided with an intake passage, an exhaust passage, an exhaust gas recirculation passage connecting the intake passage and exhaust passage, and an exhaust gas flow rate control valve arranged in the exhaust gas recirculation passage for controlling the flow rate of the exhaust gas flowing in the exhaust gas recirculation passage, the system calculating an amount of passage exhaust gas defined as an amount of exhaust gas passing through an exhaust gas flow rate control valve, utilizing a parameter changing said amount of passage exhaust gas and the system calculating an amount of cylinder inflow exhaust gas defined as an amount of exhaust gas flowing into a cylinder, utilizing said calculated amount of passage exhaust gas, wherein a value of the parameter is read in, a dead time corresponding to the time taken until the exhaust gas passing through the exhaust gas flow rate control valve reaches the cylinder and a tracking lag of a change in the amount of cylinder inflow exhaust gas with respect to a change in the amount of

passage exhaust gas are reflected in the read value, and the amount of passage exhaust gas is calculated utilizing the read value in which the dead time and tracking lag are reflected.

5 [0015] Preferably the tracking lag is a first-order lag, and a time constant of the first-order lag and the dead time are changed in accordance with an engine speed.

[0016] Alternatively, preferably the internal
10 combustion engine is provided with a plurality of cylinders, a ratio of an actual amount of cylinder inflow exhaust gas in each cylinder with respect to the calculated amount of cylinder inflow exhaust gas is found in advance as a distribution constant, and the
15 distribution constant is multiplied with the calculated amount of cylinder inflow exhaust gas to calculate the amount of cylinder inflow exhaust gas in each cylinder.

[0017] Alternatively, preferably the internal
20 combustion engine is provided with a plurality of cylinders, and the tracking lag and dead time are set for each cylinder.

[0018] Alternatively, preferably the internal engine
25 is provided with an intake valve with a variable closing timing, and the setting of said tracking lag and the setting of said dead time are changed in accordance with a closing time of the intake valve.

[0019] Alternatively, preferably a flow rate of gas
30 near an opening of an exhaust gas recirculation passage opening to the intake passage can be changed by one of a change of passage volume from the exhaust gas flow rate control valve to the intake valve in accordance with an engine operating state and a change of a channel
sectional area of the intake passage in accordance with the engine operating state, and the setting of the
tracking lag and the setting of the dead time are changed
35 in accordance with one of said passage volume and said flow rate of gas.

[0020] According to a third aspect of the invention,

there is provided an intake passage inflow exhaust gas amount calculation system of an internal combustion engine provided with an intake passage, an exhaust passage, an exhaust gas recirculation passage connecting the intake passage and exhaust passage, and an exhaust gas flow rate control valve arranged in the exhaust gas recirculation passage for controlling the flow rate of the exhaust gas flowing in the exhaust gas recirculation passage, the system calculating an amount of an intake passage inflow exhaust gas defined as an amount of exhaust gas flowing into the intake passage, utilizing an amount of passage exhaust gas defined as an amount of exhaust gas passing through said exhaust gas flow rate control valve, wherein an intake passage inflow exhaust gas is calculated considering the dead time corresponding to the time taken until the exhaust gas passing through the exhaust gas flow rate control valve reaches the intake passage and a tracking lag of a change in the intake passage inflow exhaust gas with respect to a change in the amount of passage exhaust gas.

[0021] Preferably the tracking lag is a first-order lag, and a time constant of the first-order lag and the dead time are changed in accordance with an engine speed.

[0022] Alternatively, preferably the internal combustion engine is provided with a plurality of cylinders, the exhaust gas recirculation passage is connected to an intake passage connected to each cylinder, a ratio of an actual amount of intake passage inflow exhaust gas to the intake passage cylinder connected to each cylinder with respect to the calculated amount of cylinder inflow exhaust gas is found in advance as a distribution constant, and the distribution constant is multiplied with the calculated amount of intake passage inflow exhaust gas to calculate the amount of intake passage inflow exhaust gas in the intake passage connected to each cylinder.

[0023] Alternatively, preferably the internal

combustion engine is provided with a plurality of cylinders, and the tracking lag and dead time are set for each cylinder.

5 [0024] Alternatively, preferably the internal engine is provided with an intake valve with a variable closing timing, and the setting of said tracking lag and the setting of said dead time are changed in accordance with a closing time of the intake valve.

10 [0025] Alternatively, preferably a flow rate of gas near an opening of an exhaust gas recirculation passage opening to the intake passage can be changed by one of a change of passage volume from the exhaust gas flow rate control valve to the intake valve in accordance with an engine operating state and a change of a channel
15 sectional area of the intake passage in accordance with the engine operating state, and the setting of the tracking lag and the setting of the dead time are changed in accordance with one of said passage volume and said flow rate of gas.

20 [0026] Alternatively, preferably a flow rate of gas near an opening of an exhaust gas recirculation passage opening to the intake passage can be changed by one of a change of passage volume from said exhaust gas flow rate control valve to said intake valve in accordance with an
25 engine operating state and a change of a channel sectional area of said intake passage in accordance with the engine operating state, a function equation expressing the amount of passage exhaust gas by a function of the pressure in the intake passage, and a
30 parameter other than the pressure in said intake passage is found and stored in advance, an amount of passage exhaust gas is calculated from the pressure in the intake passage utilizing the function equation, and the
35 parameter other than the pressure in the intake passage is changed in accordance with one of said passage volume and said flow rate of gas.

[0027] According to a fourth aspect of the invention,

there is provided an intake passage inflow exhaust gas amount calculation system of an internal combustion engine provided with an intake passage, an exhaust passage, an exhaust gas recirculation passage connecting the intake passage and exhaust passage, and an exhaust gas flow rate control valve arranged in the exhaust gas recirculation passage for controlling the flow rate of the exhaust gas flowing in the exhaust gas recirculation passage, the system calculating an amount of passage exhaust gas defined as an amount of exhaust gas passing through an exhaust gas flow rate control valve, utilizing a parameter changing said amount of passage exhaust gas and the system calculating an amount of intake exhaust gas defined as an amount of exhaust gas flowing into the intake passage, utilizing said calculated amount of passage exhaust gas, wherein a value of the parameter is read in, a dead time corresponding to the time taken until the exhaust gas passing through the exhaust gas flow rate control valve reaches the cylinder and a tracking lag of a change in the amount of cylinder inflow exhaust gas with respect to a change in the amount of passage exhaust gas are reflected in the read value, and the amount of passage exhaust gas is calculated utilizing the read value in which the dead time and tracking lag are reflected.

[0029] Preferably the tracking lag is a first-order lag, and a time constant of the first-order lag and the dead time are changed in accordance with an engine speed.

[0030] Alternatively, preferably the internal combustion engine is provided with a plurality of cylinders, the exhaust gas recirculation passage is connected to an intake passage connected to each cylinder, a ratio of an actual amount of intake passage inflow exhaust gas to the intake passage connected to each cylinder with respect to the calculated amount of cylinder inflow exhaust gas is found in advance as a distribution constant, and the distribution constant is

multiplied with the calculated amount of intake passage inflow exhaust gas to calculate the amount of intake passage inflow exhaust gas in the intake passage connected to each cylinder.

5 [0031] Alternatively, preferably the internal combustion engine is provided with a plurality of cylinders, and the tracking lag and dead time are set for each cylinder.

10 [0032] Alternatively, preferably the internal engine is provided with an intake valve with a variable closing timing, and the setting of said tracking lag and the setting of said dead time are changed in accordance with a closing time of the intake valve.

15 [0033] Alternatively, preferably a flow rate of gas near an opening of an exhaust gas recirculation passage opening to the intake passage can be changed by one of a change of passage volume from the exhaust gas flow rate control valve to the intake valve in accordance with an engine operating state and a change of a channel
20 sectional area of the intake passage in accordance with the engine operating state, and the setting of the tracking lag and the setting of the dead time are changed in accordance with one of said passage volume and said flow rate of gas.

25 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0035] These and other objects and features of the present invention will become clearer from the following description of the preferred embodiments given with reference to the attached drawings, wherein:

30 FIG. 1 is an overall view of an internal combustion engine provided with a control system of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a view of a cylinder inflow gas model able to be applied to an internal combustion engine not
35 provided with an EGR system;

FIG. 3 is a view of a relationship between a throttle opening degree and flow rate coefficient;

FIG. 4 is a view of a relationship between a throttle opening degree and opening sectional area;

FIG. 5 is a view of a function $\Phi(P_m/P_a)$;

5 FIG. 6 is a view of the basic concept of a throttle model;

FIG. 7 is a view of the basic concept of an intake pipe model able to be applied to an internal combustion engine not provided with an EGR system;

10 FIG. 8 is a view of the basic concept of an intake valve model;

FIG. 9 is a view relating to the definitions of the amount of cylinder charging gas and the cylinder inflow gas flow rate;

15 FIG. 10 is a view of a cylinder inflow gas model of the present invention able to be applied to an internal combustion engine provided with an EGR system;

FIG. 11 is a view of the basic concept of an intake pipe model able to be applied to an internal combustion engine provided with an EGR system;

20 FIG. 12 is a view of the basic concept in the calculation of an EGR control valve passage gas flow rate;

FIG. 13 is a view of a relationship of an engine load factor and an exhaust pressure;

25 FIG. 14 is a view of a relationship of an EGR control valve passage gas flow rate and exhaust temperature;

30 FIG. 15 is a view of a change of an inflow exhaust gas recirculation rate when the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate changes;

FIG. 16A is a view of a relationship of an engine speed NE and a dead time Td1 relating to an inflow exhaust gas recirculation rate;

35 FIG. 16B is a view of a relationship of an engine speed NE and a time constant τ_1 relating to an inflow exhaust gas recirculation rate;

FIG. 17A is a view of a relationship of an engine speed NE and a dead time Td2 relating to a cylinder inflow exhaust gas recirculation rate;

5 FIG. 17B is a view of a relationship of an engine speed NE and a time constant τ_2 relating to a cylinder inflow exhaust gas recirculation rate;

FIG. 18 is a flow chart of a routine for calculating a cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate $m_{egr-egr}$;

10 FIG. 19A is a view of a relationship between a time T360° taken for a crankshaft to rotate 360° and a dead time Td;

FIG. 19B is a view of a relationship between a time T360° taken for a crankshaft to rotate 360° and a time constant τ ;

15 FIG. 20A is a view of a relationship between an engine speed NE and dead time Td1 relating to an inflow exhaust gas recirculation rate;

20 FIG. 20B is a view of a relationship between an engine speed NE and smoothing number N1 relating to an inflow exhaust gas recirculation rate;

FIG. 21A is a view of a relationship between an engine speed NE and dead time Td2 relating to a cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate;

25 FIG. 21B is a view of a relationship between an engine speed NE and smoothing number N2 relating to a cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate;

FIG. 22 is a flow chart of a routine for calculating a cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate $m_{egr-egr}$;

30 FIG. 23 is a flow chart of a routine for calculating a cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate $m_{egr-egr}$ considering a distribution coefficient for each cylinder;

FIG. 24 is a flow chart of a routine for calculating a cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate $m_{egr-egr}$ considering a distribution coefficient for each cylinder and a dead time and time constant;

35

FIG. 25A is a view of a relationship between an

intake valve closing timing CA and dead time $Td2$;

FIG. 25B is a view of a relationship between an intake valve closing timing CA and time constant $\tau2$;

FIG. 26A is a view of a relationship between an intake valve closing timing CA and correction coefficient Ktd relating to a dead time $Td2$;

FIG. 26B is a view of a relationship between an intake valve closing timing CA and correction coefficient $K\tau$ relating to a time coefficient $\tau2$;

FIG. 27A is a view of a relationship between an intake valve closing timing CA and a dead time $Td2$;

FIG. 27B is a view of a relationship between an intake valve closing timing CA and a time coefficient $\tau2$;

FIG. 28A is a view of a relationship between an intake valve closing timing CA and correction coefficient Ktd relating to a dead time $Td2$;

FIG. 28B is a view of a relationship between an intake valve closing timing CA and correction coefficient $K\tau$ relating to a time coefficient $\tau2$;

FIG. 29A is a view of a relationship between an intake valve closing timing CA and a dead time $Td2$;

FIG. 29B is a view of a relationship between an intake valve closing timing CA and a time coefficient $\tau2$;

FIG. 30A is a view of a relationship between an intake valve closing timing CA and correction coefficient Ktd relating to a dead time $Td2$;

FIG. 30B is a view of a relationship between an intake valve closing timing CA and correction coefficient $K\tau$ relating to a time coefficient $\tau2$;

FIG. 31 is a view for explaining an amount of EGR control valve passage gas m_{egr} ;

FIG. 32 is a graph of an exhaust pressure P_e , exhaust temperature T_e , and $P_e/\sqrt{T_e}$;

FIG. 33A is a graph of a function $\Phi(P_m/P_e)$;

FIG. 33B is a graph of a function $\Phi(P_m/P_e)$;

FIG. 34 is a graph of an example of a relationship between an engine load factor K_{Lon} and an intake pipe pressure P_m ;

5 FIG. 35A is a graph of a relationship between an engine speed NE , an EGR opening degree θ_e , and gradient $e1'$;

FIG. 35B is a graph of a relationship between an engine speed NE , an EGR opening degree θ_e , and gradient $e2'$;

10 FIG. 35C is a view of a map of the gradient $e1'$ of a function of an engine speed NE and an EGR opening degree θ_e ;

FIG. 35D is a graph of a map of the gradient $e2'$ of a function of an engine speed NE and an EGR opening
15 degree θ_e ;

FIG. 36 is a graph of an intake pipe pressure d' at a connection point;

FIG. 37A is a graph of an engine speed NE , EGR opening degree θ_e , and engine load factor r' at a
20 connection point;

FIG. 37B is a view of a map of an engine load factor r' of a function of the engine speed NE and EGR opening degree θ_e ;

FIG. 38 is a graph of an example of a relationship
25 between an engine load factor K_{Lon} and an intake pipe pressure P_m ;

FIG. 39 is a graph of an example of a relationship between an engine load factor K_{Loff} and an intake pipe pressure P_m ;

30 FIG. 40A is a graph of a relationship between an engine speed NE and a gradient $a1'$;

FIG. 40B is a graph of a relationship between an engine speed NE and a gradient $a2'$;

FIG. 41 is a graph of an engine load factor c at a
35 connection point;

FIG. 42 is a graph for explaining a difference ΔKL ;

FIG. 43 is a flow chart of a routine for calculation of an EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} ;

FIG. 44 is a graph of an example of a relationship
5 between a difference ΔKL and an intake pipe pressure P_m ;

FIG. 45A is a view of a map of a gradient $h1'$ of a function of an engine speed NE and EGR opening degree θ_e ;

FIG. 45B is a view of a map of a gradient $h2'$ of a function of an engine speed NE and EGR opening degree θ_e ;

FIG. 45C is a view of a map of a difference i' at a connection point of a function of an engine speed NE and EGR opening degree θ_e ;
10

FIG. 46 is a flow chart of a routine for calculation of an EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr}
15 according to another embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 47 is a graph of a relationship between an EGR opening degree θ_e and a number of steps STP ;

FIG. 48A is a view of a relationship between an engine cooling water temperature THW and engine warmup correction coefficient kwu ;
20

FIG. 48B is a view of a relationship between a retardation angle RTD and a retardation correction coefficient $krtd$;

FIG. 48C is a view of a relationship between an increase correction $Finc$ and an increase correction coefficient $kinc$;
25

FIG. 49 is a partial view of an internal combustion engine of still another embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 50A is a view of a relationship between an intake pipe pressure P_m and engine load factors $KLon$ and $KLoff$;
30

FIG. 50B is a view of a relationship between an intake pipe pressure P_m and engine load factors $KLon$ and $KLoff$;
35

FIG. 51A is a view of an intake tube of an internal combustion engine provided with a swirl control valve; and

5 FIG. 51B is a view of an intake tube of an internal combustion engine provided with a swirl control valve in a state separate from the state shown in FIG. 51A.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0036] Preferred embodiments of the present invention will be described in detail below while referring to the
10 attached figures.

[0037] FIG. 1 is an overall view of an internal combustion engine to which the present invention is applied. In the following explanation, the explanation will be made of the example of an in-cylinder injection
15 (or direct-injection) type spark ignition internal combustion engine, but the present invention may also be applied to another spark ignition internal combustion engine. In FIG. 1, 1 is an engine body, 2 a cylinder block, 3 a piston, 4 a cylinder head, 5 a cylinder
20 (combustion chamber), 6 an intake valve, 7 an intake port, 8 an exhaust valve, 9 an exhaust port, 10 a spark plug, 11 a fuel injector, and 12 a cavity.

[0038] The intake port 7 is connected to a surge tank 14 through an intake tube 13 for every cylinder 5. The
25 surge tank 14 is connected to an air cleaner 16 through an upstream intake pipe 15. The upstream intake pipe 15 has a throttle valve 18 driven by a step motor 17 arranged inside it. On the other hand, the intake port 9 is connected to an exhaust pipe 19. The exhaust pipe 19
30 is connected to an exhaust gas purification device 20.

[0039] The exhaust pipe 19 is connected to the intake tube 13 through an exhaust gas recirculation passage (hereinafter referred to as the "EGR passage"). The EGR
passage 21 has an EGR control valve 22 for controlling
35 the flow rate of the exhaust gas flowing through the inside of the EGR passage 21 arranged inside it. The exhaust gas exhausted from a cylinder 5 of the internal

combustion engine is introduced inside the cylinder again through this EGR passage 21. In this specification, the exhaust gas recirculated inside the cylinder through this EGR passage 21 is also called "EGR gas".

5 [0040] An electronic control unit (ECU) 31 is comprised of a digital computer provided with a random access memory (RAM) 33, a read only memory (ROM) 34, a microprocessor (CPU) 35, an input port 36, and an output port 37 connected to each other through a bidirectional
10 bus 32. The intake tube 13 has attached to it an intake pipe pressure sensor 40 for detecting the pressure inside the intake tube 13 (hereinafter also called the "intake pipe pressure"). The intake pipe pressure sensor 40 generates an output voltage proportional to the intake
15 pipe pressure. Its output voltage is input to the input port 36 through a corresponding AD converter 38.

[0041] Further, the internal combustion engine is provided with a throttle opening degree sensor 43 for detecting an opening degree of the throttle valve 18, an
20 atmospheric pressure sensor 44 for detecting the pressure of atmosphere around the internal combustion engine or the pressure of the air (intake pressure) taken into the upstream intake pipe 15, and an atmospheric temperature sensor 45 for detecting the temperature of the air
25 (intake temperature) taken into the upstream intake pipe 15. These sensors 44 and 45 generate output voltages proportional to the atmospheric pressure and atmospheric temperature. These output voltages are input to the input port 36 through the corresponding AD converters 38.

30 [0042] Further, an accelerator pedal 46 has connected to it a load sensor 47 for generating an output voltage proportional to the amount of depression of the acceleration pedal 46. The output voltage of the load sensor 47 is input to the input port 36 through the
35 corresponding AD converter 38. Further, the internal combustion engine is provided with a crank angle sensor 48. The crank angle sensor 48 for example generates an

output pulse every time the crankshaft turns 30 degrees. This output pulse is input to the input port 36. The CPU 35 calculates the engine speed from the output pulses of the crank angle sensor 45.

5 [0043] On the other hand, the output port 37 is connected through a corresponding drive circuit 39 to the spark plug 10, fuel injector 11, step motor 17, and EGR control valve 22. Note that the opening degree of the EGR control valve 22 is calculated in the ECU 31 based on a
10 step signal sent from the output port 37 to the EGR control valve 22.

[0044] Note that the amount of the fuel to be injected from the fuel injector 10 to the inside of a cylinder 5 (hereinafter simply called the "fuel injection amount")
15 is determined based on the amount of air charged in the cylinder 5 so that the air-fuel ratio of the air-fuel mixture in the cylinder 5 accurately becomes the target air-fuel ratio. Therefore, to make the air-fuel ratio of the air-fuel mixture in the cylinder 5 accurately the
20 target air-fuel ratio, it is necessary to obtain an accurate grasp of the amount of air charged in the cylinder 5 (hereinafter called the "amount of cylinder charging air"). Here, as a method for estimating the amount of cylinder charging air, there is the method of
25 attaching an air-flow meter for detecting the mass flow rate of the air passing through the throttle valve 18 or another sensor to the internal combustion engine, preparing in advance a map for calculating the amount of cylinder charging air using the output value of these
30 sensors as a variable, and estimating the amount of cylinder charging air from the output value of the sensor and the map.

[0045] When using a map for estimating the amount of cylinder charging air, however, to accurately estimate
35 the amount of cylinder charging air, it is necessary to increase the number of maps and the arguments. If increasing the number of maps, however, it is necessary

to enlarge the storage capacity of the ROM 34 storing these maps and the cost of the internal combustion engine ends up becoming higher. Further, when estimating the amount of cylinder charging air utilizing the maps, it is
5 necessary to prepare maps for each type of internal combustion engine or for each individual internal combustion engine even if the same type of internal combustion engine, so the labor involved in preparing the maps becomes greater. On the other hand, if trying to
10 more accurately estimate the amount of cylinder charging air by increasing the arguments of the maps, the labor in preparing the maps ends up becoming much larger.

[0046] Therefore, instead of the maps, the method of calculating the amount of cylinder charging air by
15 numerical calculation utilizing an equation derived from the model is being studied. This method has already been applied for by the present assignee (Japanese Patent Application No. 2001-316350). The method already filed
20 for by the present assignee is a method to be applied to an internal combustion engine in which the exhaust gas is not recirculated to a cylinder, so cannot be applied as it is to an internal combustion engine with an EGR device of the present embodiment, but probably would be of
25 reference in understanding the later mentioned method able to be applied to the present embodiment, so first the method already applied for by the present assignee will be explained.

[0047] The method already applied for by the present assignee is derived from the model shown in FIG. 2
30 (hereinafter called the "cylinder inflow gas model"). The cylinder inflow gas model M20 shown in FIG. 2 is comprised of a throttle model M21, an intake pipe model M22, and an intake valve model M23.

[0048] The throttle model M21 receives as input the
35 opening degree θ_t of the throttle valve 18 detected by a throttle opening degree sensor 43 (throttle opening degree), the atmospheric pressure P_a detected by an

atmospheric pressure sensor 45, an atmospheric temperature T_a detected by an atmospheric temperature sensor 44, and a pressure P_m inside the intake tube 13 calculated in the intake pipe model M22 (hereinafter referred to as the "intake pipe pressure"). In the model M21, the flow rate m_t of air passing through the throttle valve 18 per unit time (hereinafter called the "throttle valve passage air flow rate") is calculated from these input parameters.

5 [0049] Further, the intake pipe model M22 receives as input the throttle valve passage air flow rate m_t calculated at the above-mentioned throttle model M21, a flow rate m_c of gas flowing into the cylinder 5 per unit time calculated at the intake valve model M23 (hereinafter referred to as the "cylinder inflow gas flow rate"), and the atmospheric temperature T_a . In the model M22, the intake pipe pressure P_m and the temperature T_m of the gas inside the intake tube 13 (hereinafter called the "intake pipe temperature") are calculated from these input parameters.

15 [0050] Further, the intake valve model M23 receives as input the intake pipe pressure P_m calculated at the above-mentioned intake pipe model M22, the intake pipe temperature T_m , and the atmospheric temperature T_a . In this model M23, the cylinder inflow gas flow rate m_c is calculated from these input parameters. Further, by this method, as explained later, the cylinder inflow gas flow rate m_c is utilized to calculate the amount M_c of gas flowing into the cylinder 5 (hereinafter called the "amount of cylinder charging gas").

20 [0051] As will be understood from FIG. 2, in the cylinder inflow gas model M20, since parameter values calculated at different models are utilized as parameter values input to a separate model, the only parameter values actually input to the cylinder inflow gas model M20 are the throttle opening degree θ_t , the atmospheric pressure P_a , and the atmospheric temperature T_a . That is,

according to this method, it can be said that the amount of cylinder charging gas M_c is calculated from three parameters.

[0052] Next, the models M21 to M23 will be explained in detail. In the throttle model M21, the atmospheric pressure P_a , the atmospheric temperature T_a , the intake pipe pressure P_m , and the throttle opening degree θ_t are input to the following equation (1) and the equation is solved so as to calculate the throttle valve passage air flow rate m_t .

$$m_t = \mu_t(\theta_t) \cdot A_t(\theta_t) \cdot \frac{P_a}{\sqrt{R \cdot T_a}} \cdot \Phi\left(\frac{P_m}{P_a}\right) \dots (1)$$

In equation (1), μ_t is a flow rate coefficient in the throttle valve and a function of the throttle opening degree θ_t and is determined from the map shown in FIG. 3. Further, A_t is the opening sectional area of the throttle valve and a function of the throttle opening degree θ_t and is determined from the map shown in FIG. 4. Note that it is also possible to find $\mu_t \cdot A_t$ combining the flow rate coefficient μ_t and the opening sectional area A_t as a function of the throttle opening degree θ_t from a single map. Further, R is a constant relating to the gas constant and is a value obtained by dividing the so-called gas constant R^* by the mass M_a of the air per mole ($R=R^*/M_a$).

[0053] Further, $\Phi(P_m/P_a)$ is a function having P_m/P_a as a variable as shown in the following equation (2):

$$\Phi\left(\frac{P_m}{P_a}\right) = \begin{cases} \sqrt{\frac{\kappa}{2(\kappa + 1)}} & \dots \frac{P_m}{P_a} \leq \frac{1}{\kappa + 1} \\ \sqrt{\left[\left(\frac{\kappa - 1}{2\kappa}\right) \cdot \left(1 - \frac{P_m}{P_a}\right) + \frac{P_m}{P_a}\right] \cdot \left(1 - \frac{P_m}{P_a}\right)} & \dots \frac{P_m}{P_a} > \frac{1}{\kappa + 1} \end{cases} \dots (2)$$

In equation (2), κ is the specific heat ratio. In this method, it is a constant value.

[0054] Note that there is the relation shown in FIG. 5
5 between the function $\Phi(P_m/P_a)$ and P_m/P_a . Therefore,
instead of equation (2), it is also possible to store a
map for calculation of the function $\Phi(P_m/P_a)$ having P_m/P_a
as a variable in advance in the ROM 34 and to calculate
the value of the function $\Phi(P_m/P_a)$ from P_m/P_a and this
10 map.

[0055] Note that equations (1) and (2) use the
pressure of the air upstream of the throttle valve 18 as
the atmospheric pressure P_a , use the temperature of the
air upstream of the throttle valve 18 as the atmospheric
15 temperature T_a , and use the pressure of the air passing
through the throttle valve 18 as the intake pipe pressure
 P_m and are derived utilizing the relation standing
between the air upstream of the throttle valve 18 and the
air passing through the throttle valve 18 under the law
20 of conservation of mass, law of conservation of energy,
and law of conservation of momentum based on a model such
as shown in FIG. 6 for the throttle valve 18, the
equation of state of gas, the definition of the specific
heat ratio ($\kappa = C_p/C_v$), and Meyer's Relation ($C_p = C_v + R^*$).
25 Here, C_p is a constant pressure specific heat, C_v is a
constant volume specific heat, and R^* is a so-called gas
constant.

[0056] Next, the intake pipe model M22 will be
explained. In the intake pipe model M22, the throttle
30 valve passage air flow rate m_t , the cylinder inflow gas
flow rate m_c , and the atmospheric temperature T_a are
input to the following equations (3) and (4) and these
equations are solved to calculate the intake pipe
pressure P_m and the intake pipe temperature T_m :

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{P_m}{T_m} \right) = \frac{R}{V} \cdot (m_t - m_c) \dots (3)$$

$$\frac{dP_m}{dt} = \kappa \cdot \frac{R}{V} \cdot (m_t \cdot T_a - m_c \cdot T_m) \dots (4)$$

In equations (3) and (4), V is the total volume of the intake pipe 15 from the throttle valve 18 to the intake valve 6, the surge tank 14, the intake tube 13, and the intake port 7 (hereinafter referred to together as the "intake pipe portion") and is usually a constant value.

[0057] Note that these equations (3) and (4) are

derived from the relation standing between the air flowing into the intake pipe portion and the air flowing out from the intake pipe portion and flowing into the cylinder under the law of conservation of mass and the law of conservation of energy based on the model shown in FIG. 7 relating to the intake pipe portion.

[0058] Specifically, if the total amount of air in the intake pipe portion is M, the change over time of the total amount of air M is equal to the difference between the flow rate m_t of the air flowing into the intake pipe portion (that is, the throttle valve passage air flow rate) and the flow rate m_c of the air flowing out of from the intake pipe portion and flowing into the cylinder (that is, the amount of cylinder inflow gas), so the following equation (5) stands under the law of the conservation of mass:

$$\frac{dM}{dt} = m_t - m_c \dots (5)$$

Further, the above equation (3) is derived from equation (5) and the equation of state of the gas ($P_m \cdot V = M \cdot R \cdot T_m$).

[0059] Further, the amount of change over time of the amount of energy $M \cdot C_v \cdot T_m$ of the air in the intake pipe portion is equal to the difference between the amount of energy of the air flowing into the intake pipe portion and the amount of energy of the air flowing out from the

intake pipe portion and flowing into the cylinder, so if making the temperature of the air flowing into the intake pipe portion the atmospheric temperature T_a and making the temperature of the air flowing out from the intake pipe portion and flowing into the cylinder the intake pipe temperature T_m , the following equation (6) stands under the law of the conservation of energy:

$$\frac{d(M \cdot C_v \cdot T_m)}{dt} = C_p \cdot m_t \cdot T_a - C_p \cdot m_c \cdot T_m \dots (6)$$

Further, the above equation (4) is derived from this equation (6) and the above equation of state of a gas.

[0060] Next, the intake valve model M23 will be explained. In the intake valve model M23, the intake pipe pressure P_m , the intake pipe temperature T_m , and the atmospheric temperature T_a are input to the following equation (7) and this equation is solved to calculate the cylinder inflow gas flow rate m_c :

$$m_c = \frac{T_a}{T_m} \cdot (a \cdot P_m - b) \dots (7)$$

In equation (7), a and b are values found using the engine speed NE as a variable. Further, when at least one of the valve timing corresponding to the opening timing or closing timing of the intake valve 6 and the operating angle corresponding to the opening time can be changed in an internal combustion engine, in equation (7), a and b are values found using the engine speed NE and valve timing or phase angle or both as variables. Using another manner of expression, in equation (7), a is a proportional coefficient and b is a value showing the amount of gas remaining in the cylinder 5 at the time of closing of the exhaust valve 8.

[0061] Further, in equation (7), when the engine operating state changes, that is, at the time of transient operation, the intake pipe temperature T_m will sometimes change greatly, so T_a/T_m derived from theory and experience is used as the correction coefficient for compensating for changes in the intake pipe temperature

T_m .

[0062] Note that equation (7) relates to the intake valve 6. It deems that the cylinder inflow gas flow rate m_c is proportional to the intake pipe pressure P_m as explained in detail below based on the model such as shown in FIG. 8 and is derived from theory and experience. That is, the amount of cylinder inflow gas M_c is finally established at the time of closing of the intake valve 6 and is proportional to the pressure inside the cylinder 5 at the time of closing of the intake valve 6. Here, the pressure in the cylinder 5 at the time of closing of the intake valve 6 is deemed to be equal to the pressure P_m of the air upstream of the intake valve 6 (that is, the intake pipe pressure), so it is possible to approximate the amount of cylinder charging gas M_c as being proportional to the intake pipe pressure P_m .

[0063] On the other hand, the amount of cylinder charging gas M_c is found by integrating over time the flow rate m_c of the air flowing into the cylinder 5 during the opening period of the intake valve 6 (cylinder inflow gas flow rate) over the opening period of the intake valve 6. That is, between the amount of cylinder charging gas M_c and the cylinder inflow gas flow rate m_c , there is the relationship that the time integrated value of the cylinder inflow gas flow rate m_c is the amount of cylinder charging gas M_c . In this way, since the amount of cylinder charging gas M_c is proportional to the intake pipe pressure P_m and there is the relationship of the time integrated value of the cylinder inflow gas flow rate m_c being the amount of cylinder charging gas M_c between the amount of cylinder charging gas M_c and the cylinder inflow gas flow rate m_c , the cylinder inflow gas flow rate m_c can also be deemed proportional to the intake pipe pressure P_m .

[0064] Therefore, with this method, the cylinder inflow gas flow rate m_c is deemed proportional to the intake pipe pressure P_m and equation (7) is derived from

theory and experience. Note that the cylinder inflow gas flow rate m_c calculated by equation (7) is the average value of the flow rate of air flowing out from the intake pipe portion per unit time, so by multiplying the cylinder inflow gas flow rate m_c with the time taken for one cycle of the internal combustion engine divided by the number of cylinders, the amount of cylinder charging gas M_c in each cylinder 5 is derived.

[0065] Next, this will be explained referring to FIG. 9 taking as an example an internal combustion engine provided with four cylinders. In FIG. 9, the abscissa is the crank angle and the ordinate is the amount of air flowing from the intake pipe portion to the cylinder 5 per unit time. Further, in the example shown in FIG. 9, the intake stroke is performed in the order of the first cylinder #1, the third cylinder #3, the fourth cylinder #4, and the second cylinder #2. If the intake stroke is performed in this way, the flow rate of the air flowing from the intake pipe portion to each cylinder 5 changes as shown by the broken line in FIG. 9. As a result, the flow rate of the air flowing out from the intake pipe portion changes as shown by the solid line in FIG. 9.

[0066] Further, the mean value of the flow rate of the air flowing out from the intake pipe portion (solid line in FIG. 9) is the cylinder inflow gas flow rate m_c . In FIG. 9, it is shown by the broken line. Therefore, the amount of cylinder charging gas M_c in each cylinder 5 is calculated by multiplying the cylinder inflow gas flow rate m_c (broken line in FIG. 9) with the time required for one cycle of the internal combustion engine (in the example shown in FIG. 9, the time taken for the crankshaft to turn 720°) divided by the number of cylinders (in the example shown in FIG. 9, four), that is, in the example of FIG. 9, the time taken for the crankshaft to rotate 180° . Further, the amount of cylinder charging gas M_c in each cylinder 5 calculated for example matches with the hatching in FIG. 9.

[0067] Next, the method of calculation of the amount of cylinder charging gas M_c when applying the above cylinder inflow gas model M20 to an internal combustion engine will be explained. The amount of cylinder charging gas M_c is found from equations (1) to (4) and (7) of the models of the cylinder inflow gas model M20, but these five equations are made discrete so as to enable processing by the ECU 31 when mounted in an internal combustion engine. That is, if making the time t and the calculation interval (calculation period) Δt , these five equations become discrete as the following equations (8) to (12).

$$m_t(t) = \mu_t(\theta_t(t)) \cdot A_t(\theta_t(t)) \cdot \frac{P_a}{\sqrt{R \cdot T_a}} \cdot \Phi\left(\frac{P_m(t)}{P_a}\right) \dots (8)$$

$$\Phi\left(\frac{P_m(t)}{P_a}\right) = \begin{cases} \sqrt{\frac{\kappa}{2(\kappa + 1)}} & \dots \frac{P_m(t)}{P_a} \leq \frac{1}{\kappa + 1} \\ \sqrt{\left[\left(\frac{\kappa - 1}{2\kappa}\right) \cdot \left(1 - \frac{P_m(t)}{P_a}\right) + \frac{P_m(t)}{P_a}\right] \cdot \left(1 - \frac{P_m(t)}{P_a}\right)} & \dots \frac{P_m(t)}{P_a} > \frac{1}{\kappa + 1} \end{cases} \dots (9)$$

$$\frac{P_m}{T_m}(t + \Delta t) = \frac{P_m}{T_m}(t) + \Delta t \cdot \frac{R}{V} \cdot (m_t(t) - m_c(t)) \dots (10)$$

$$P_m(t + \Delta t) = P_m(t) + \Delta t \cdot \kappa \cdot \frac{R}{V} \cdot (m_t(t) \cdot T_a - m_c(t) \cdot T_m(t)) \dots (11)$$

$$m_c(t) = \frac{T_a}{T_m(t)} \cdot (a \cdot P_m(t) - b) \dots (12)$$

[0068] According to the cylinder inflow gas model M20 thus made discrete and mounted in the internal combustion engine, the throttle valve passage air flow rate $m_t(t)$ at the time t calculated in the throttle model M21, the cylinder inflow gas flow rate $m_c(t)$ at the time t calculated at the intake valve model M23, and the intake

pipe temperature $T_m(t)$ at the time t are input to equations (10) and (11) of the intake pipe model M22, and equations (10) and (11) are solved to calculate the intake pipe pressure $P_m(t+\Delta t)$ and the intake pipe temperature $T_m(t+\Delta t)$ at the time $(t+\Delta t)$.

[0069] Further, the intake pipe pressure $P_m(t+\Delta t)$ calculated at the intake pipe model M22 and the throttle opening degree $\theta_t(t)$ at the time t are input to equations (8) and (9) of the throttle model M21, and these equations are solved to calculate the throttle valve passage air flow rate $m_t(t+\Delta t)$ at the time $(t+\Delta t)$.

Further, the intake pipe pressure $P_m(t+\Delta t)$ and the intake pipe temperature $T_m(t+\Delta t)$ calculated at the intake pipe model M22 are input to equation (12) of the intake valve model M23, and this equation is solved to calculate the cylinder inflow gas flow rate $m_c(t+\Delta t)$ at the time $(t+\Delta t)$.

[0070] By repeating this calculation, the cylinder inflow gas flow rate m_c at any time is calculated.. Further, by multiplying the cylinder inflow gas flow rate m_c calculated in this way by the time taken for one cycle divided by the number of cylinders as explained above, the amount of cylinder charging gas M_c of each cylinder at any time is calculated.

[0071] Note that at the starting time of the internal combustion engine, that is, at the time $t=0$, the intake pipe pressure P_m is considered to be equal to atmospheric pressure P_a ($P_m(0)=P_a$), the intake pipe temperature T_m is considered equal to the atmospheric temperature T_a ($T_m(0)=T_a$), and the calculations at the models M21 to M23 are started. Further, it is also possible to continuously use the atmospheric pressure and atmospheric temperature at the time when the calculation at the model M20 is started as the atmospheric pressure P_a and the

atmospheric temperature T_a used at the above-mentioned cylinder inflow gas model M20 and it is also possible to use the atmospheric pressure $P_a(t)$ and atmospheric temperature $T_a(t)$ at the time t .

5 [0072] Next, a cylinder inflow gas model able to be applied to an internal combustion engine with the EGR device shown in FIG. 1 will be explained. If the flow rate of the air (fresh air) in the gas flowing into the cylinder is called the cylinder inflow fresh air flow rate m_{c-air} , the cylinder inflow fresh air flow rate m_{c-air} is found from the following equation (13):

$$m_{c-air} = m_c - m_{c-egr} \dots (13)$$

In equation (13), m_c is the cylinder inflow gas flow rate defined as the flow rate of the gas flowing into the cylinder, and m_{c-egr} is the cylinder inflow EGR gas flow rate defined as the flow rate of the exhaust gas in the gas flowing into the cylinder.

15 [0073] Here, in the case of steady state operation (for example, in the case where the throttle valve opening degree, EGR opening degree, engine speed, etc. are maintained substantially constant), the flow rate m_{egr} of the exhaust gas passing through the EGR control valve 22 (hereinafter called the "EGR control valve passage gas flow rate") and the cylinder inflow EGR gas flow rate m_{c-egr} are equal ($m_{c-egr} = m_{egr}$). Therefore, equation (13) can be rewritten to the following equation (14):

$$m_{c-air} = m_c - m_{egr} \dots (14)$$

20 [0074] Therefore, if the cylinder inflow gas flow rate m_c and the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} are found, the cylinder inflow fresh air flow rate m_{c-air} is found and therefore the amount of cylinder charging fresh air M_{c-air} defined as the amount of air (fresh air) charged in the cylinder 5 at the time of closing of the intake valve 6 is found. Therefore, in the first embodiment, the model M10 shown in FIG. 10 is used as the cylinder inflow gas model for calculating the cylinder

inflow gas flow rate m_c . The cylinder inflow gas model M10 shown in FIG. 10 is comprised of the throttle model M11, the intake pipe model M12, the intake valve model M13, and the EGR control valve model M14.

5 [0075] The throttle model M11 is a model the same as the throttle model M21 shown in FIG. 2. The intake valve model M13 is also the same model as the intake valve model M23 shown in FIG. 2. Therefore, a detailed explanation will be omitted. Explained simply, however,
10 in the throttle model M11, the throttle opening degree θ_t , the atmospheric pressure P_a , the atmospheric temperature T_a , and the intake pipe pressure P_a are input to equation (1), and the equation is solved to calculate the throttle valve passage air flow rate m_t , while in the
15 intake valve model M13, the atmospheric temperature T_a , the intake pipe pressure P_a , and the intake pipe temperature T_m are input to equation (7), and this equation is solved to calculate the cylinder inflow gas flow rate m_c .

20 [0076] The intake pipe model M12 is input with the throttle valve passage air flow rate m_t calculated at the throttle model M11, the cylinder inflow gas flow rate m_c calculated at the intake valve model M13, the atmospheric temperature T_a , and the flow rate m_{egr} of the exhaust gas passing through the EGR control valve 22 per unit time
25 calculated at the EGR control valve model M14 (hereinafter called the "EGR control valve passage gas flow rate"), and the intake pipe pressure P_m and the intake pipe temperature T_m are calculated from these
30 input parameters.

[0077] Further, the EGR control valve model M14 is input with the EGR opening degree θ_e , the atmospheric pressure P_a , the atmospheric temperature T_a , and the intake pipe pressure P_m and exhaust temperature T_e
35 calculated at the intake pipe model M12. In the model M14, the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} is

calculated from these input parameters. As will be understood from FIG. 10, in the cylinder inflow gas model M10, parameter values calculated in the different models are utilized as parameter values input to separate models, so the only parameter values actually input to the cylinder inflow gas model M10 are the four parameters of the throttle opening degree θ_t , the EGR opening degree θ_e , the atmospheric pressure P_a , and the atmospheric temperature T_a . That is, according to the present embodiment, it can be said that the amount of cylinder charging gas M_c is calculated from these four parameters. [0078] Next, the intake pipe model M12 and the EGR control valve model M14 will be explained in detail. In the intake pipe model M12, the throttle valve passage air flow rate m_t , the cylinder inflow gas flow rate m_c , the atmospheric temperature T_a , the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} , and the exhaust temperature T_e are input to the following equations (15) and (16), and these equations are solved to calculate the intake pipe pressure P_m and the intake pipe temperature T_m :

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{P_m}{T_m} \right) = \frac{R}{V} \cdot (m_t + m_{egr} - m_c) \dots (15)$$

$$\frac{dP_m}{dt} = \kappa \cdot \frac{R}{V} \cdot (m_t \cdot T_a + m_{egr} \cdot T_e - m_c \cdot T_m) \dots (16)$$

In equations (15) and (16) as well, V is the volume of the intake pipe portion from the throttle valve 18 to the intake valve 6 and is usually a constant value.

[0079] Note that as explained relating to the above intake pipe model M22, these equations (15) and (16) are derived from the relationship standing among the air flowing into the intake pipe portion, the exhaust gas flowing into the intake pipe portion, and the gas flowing out from the intake pipe portion and flowing into the cylinder based on the model such as shown in FIG. 11 relating to the intake pipe portion under the law of

conservation of mass and the law of conservation of energy.

[0080] Further, in the EGR control valve model M14, by inputting the EGR opening degree θ_e , the intake pipe pressure P_m , the exhaust pressure P_e , and the exhaust temperature T_e into the following equation (17), the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} is calculated:

$$m_{egr} = \mu_e(\theta_e) \cdot A_e(\theta_e) \cdot \frac{P_e}{\sqrt{R \cdot T_e}} \cdot \Phi\left(\frac{P_m}{P_e}\right) \dots (17)$$

In equation (17), μ_e is the flow rate coefficient in the EGR control valve 22 and a function of the EGR opening degree θ_e . Further, A_e is the opening sectional area of the EGR control valve 22 and a function of the EGR opening degree θ_e . Further, R is a constant relating to the gas constant and is a value obtained by dividing the so-called gas constant R^* by the mass M_e of the exhaust gas per mole ($R_e = R^*/M_e$).

[0081] Further, P_e is the pressure of the exhaust gas upstream of the EGR control valve 22, while T_e is the temperature of the exhaust gas upstream of the EGR control valve 22. Further, $\Phi(P_m/P_e)$ is a function having P_m/P_e as a variable as shown in the following equation (18):

$$\Phi\left(\frac{P_m}{P_e}\right) = \begin{cases} \sqrt{\frac{\kappa}{2(\kappa + 1)}} & \dots \frac{P_m}{P_e} \leq \frac{1}{\kappa + 1} \\ \sqrt{\left[\left(\frac{\kappa - 1}{2\kappa}\right) \cdot \left(1 - \frac{P_m}{P_e}\right) + \frac{P_m}{P_e}\right] \cdot \left(1 - \frac{P_m}{P_e}\right)} & \dots \frac{P_m}{P_e} > \frac{1}{\kappa + 1} \end{cases} \dots (18)$$

This equation (18) is one in which the variable P_m/P_a of equation (2) is replaced by the variable P_m/P_e .

Therefore, κ is the specific heat ratio and is a constant

value in this embodiment.

[0082] Further, there is the relationship shown in FIG. 5 between the function $\Phi(P_m/P_e)$ and P_m/P_e . Therefore, instead of equation (18), it is also possible to store a map for calculating the function $\Phi(P_m/P_e)$ having P_m/P_e as a variable in the ROM 34 in advance and calculate the value of the function $\Phi(P_m/P_e)$ from this map.

[0083] Note that these equations (17) and (18) use the pressure of the exhaust gas upstream of the EGR control valve 22 as the exhaust pressure P_e , use the temperature of the exhaust gas upstream of the EGR control valve 22 as the exhaust gas temperature T_e , and use the pressure of the exhaust gas passing through the EGR control valve 22 as the intake pipe pressure P_m and are derived utilizing the relation standing between the exhaust gas upstream of the EGR control valve 22 and the exhaust gas passing through the EGR control valve 22 under the law of conservation of mass, law of conservation of energy, and law of conservation of momentum based on a model such as shown in FIG. 12 for the EGR control valve 22, the equation of state of a gas, the definition of the specific heat ratio, and Meyer's Relation. That is, the basic thinking in deriving equations (17) and (18) is similar to the thinking in deriving equations (1) and (2) for calculating the throttle valve passage air flow rate.

[0084] In this way, according to the present embodiment, the exhaust pressure P_e , the exhaust temperature T_e , the intake pipe pressure P_m , and the EGR opening degree θ_e are input to the calculation equations and numerical calculations are performed, whereby the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate is calculated. Therefore, the number of maps utilized at this time becomes smaller, so the labor involved in preparing the maps can be greatly reduced.

[0085] Next, the method of calculation of the amount of cylinder charging fresh air M_{c-air} when mounting the

- 34 -

cylinder inflow gas model M10 in an internal combustion engine will be explained. The amount of cylinder charging fresh air M_{c-air} is found from equations (1), (2), (7), and (15) to (18) of the models of the cylinder inflow gas model M10. When mounted in an internal combustion engine, these seven equations are made discrete so as to be able to be processed by the ECU 31. That is, if the time is t and the calculation interval (calculation period) is Δt , equations (1) and (7) are made discrete as the above equations (8), (9), and (12). Further, equations (15) to (18) are made discrete as the following equations (19) to (22):

$$\frac{P_m}{T_m}(t + \Delta t) = \frac{P_m}{T_m}(t) + \Delta t \cdot \frac{R}{V} \cdot (m_c(t) + m_{egr}(t) - m_c(t)) \dots (19)$$

$$P_m(t + \Delta t) = P_m(t) + \Delta t \cdot \kappa \cdot \frac{R}{V} (m_c(t) \cdot T_a + m_{egr}(t) \cdot T_e(t) - m_c(t) \cdot T_m(t)) \dots (20)$$

$$m_{egr}(t) = \mu_e(\theta_e(t)) \cdot A_e(\theta_e(t)) \cdot \frac{P_e(t)}{\sqrt{R \cdot T_e}} \Phi\left(\frac{P_m(t)}{P_e(t)}\right) \dots (21)$$

$$\Phi\left(\frac{P_m(t)}{P_e(t)}\right) = \begin{cases} \sqrt{\frac{\kappa}{2(\kappa + 1)}} & \dots \frac{P_m(t)}{P_e(t)} \leq \frac{1}{\kappa + 1} \\ \sqrt{\left[\left(\frac{\kappa - 1}{2\kappa}\right) \cdot \left(1 - \frac{P_m(t)}{P_e(t)}\right) + \frac{P_m(t)}{P_e(t)}\right] \cdot \left(1 - \frac{P_m(t)}{P_e(t)}\right)} & \dots \frac{P_m(t)}{P_e(t)} > \frac{1}{\kappa + 1} \end{cases} \dots (22)$$

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[0086] Further, the equations for calculating the exhaust pressure P_e and the exhaust temperature T_e are also made discrete such as in the following equations (23) and (24). Details of these equations will be explained later.

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$$P_e(t) = f_1(KL(t), NE(t)) \dots (23)$$

$$T_e(t) = f_2(m_{egr}(t - \Delta t), NE(t)) \dots (24)$$

[0087] According to the cylinder inflow gas model M10 made discrete and mounted in an internal combustion engine in this way, by inputting the throttle valve passage air flow rate $m_t(t)$ at the time t calculated at the throttle model M11, the amount of EGR control valve passage gas $m_{egr}(t)$ at the time t calculated at the EGR control valve model M14, the cylinder inflow gas flow rate $m_c(t)$ at the time t calculated at the intake valve model M13, and the exhaust gas temperature $T_e(t)$ at the time t into equations (19) and (20) of the intake pipe model M12 and solving these equations, the intake pipe pressure $P_m(t+\Delta t)$ and the intake pipe temperature $T_m(t+\Delta t)$ at the time $(t+\Delta t)$ are calculated.

[0088] Further, by inputting the intake pipe pressure $P_m(t+\Delta t)$ at the time $(t+\Delta t)$ calculated at the intake pipe model M12 and the throttle opening degree $\theta_t(t+\Delta t)$ at the same time $(t+\Delta t)$ into equations (8) and (9) of the throttle model M11 and solving these equations, the throttle valve passage air flow rate $m_t(t+\Delta t)$ at the time $(t+\Delta t)$ is calculated. Further, by inputting the intake pipe pressure $P_m(t+\Delta t)$ and the intake pipe temperature $T_m(t+\Delta t)$ at the time $(t+\Delta t)$ calculated at the intake pipe model M12 into equation (12) of the intake valve model M13 and solving this equation, the cylinder inflow gas flow rate $m_c(t+\Delta t)$ at the time $(t+\Delta t)$ is calculated.

[0089] Further, by inputting the cylinder inflow gas flow rate $m_c(t+\Delta t)$ at the time $(t+\Delta t)$ calculated at the intake pipe model M12 and the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate $m_{egr}(t)$ at the time t calculated at the EGR control valve model M14 in the previous routine into equation (14) and solving this equation, the cylinder inflow fresh air flow rate $m_{c-air}(t+\Delta t)$ at the time $(t+\Delta t)$

is calculated.

[0090] Further, by inputting the intake pipe pressure $P_m(t+\Delta t)$ at the time $(t+\Delta t)$ calculated at the intake pipe model M12, the exhaust pressure $P_e(t+\Delta t)$ at the same time
5 $(t+\Delta t)$, and the EGR opening degree $\theta_e(t+\Delta t)$ at the same time $(t+\Delta t)$ into equations (21) and (22) of the EGR control valve model M14 and solving these equations, the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate $m_{egr}(t+\Delta t)$ at the time $(t+\Delta t)$ is calculated. Further, by inputting the
10 engine load factor $KL(t+\Delta t)$ at the time $(t+\Delta t)$ and the engine speed NE at the same time $(t+\Delta t)$ into equation (23) and solving the equation, the exhaust pressure $P_e(t+\Delta t)$ at the time $(t+\Delta t)$ is calculated.

[0091] Further, by inputting the EGR control valve
15 passage gas flow rate $m_{egr}(t)$ at the time t and the engine speed $NE(t+\Delta t)$ at the time $(t+\Delta t)$ into equation (24) and solving this equation, the exhaust temperature $T_e(t+\Delta t)$ at the time $(t+\Delta t)$ is calculated. The thus calculated
 $m_c(t+\Delta t)$, $m_{egr}(t+\Delta t)$, and $m_t(t+\Delta t)$ are again input to
20 equations (19) and (20) of the intake pipe model M12. By repeating such calculations, the cylinder inflow fresh air flow rate m_{c-air} at any time is calculated. Further, by multiplying the thus calculated cylinder inflow fresh air flow rate m_{c-air} with the time taken for one cycle divided
25 by the number of cylinders as explained above, the amount of cylinder charging fresh air M_{c-air} of each cylinder at any time is calculated.

[0092] Note that at the time of startup of the
30 internal combustion engine, that is, at the time $t=0$, the intake pipe pressure P_m is considered equal to the atmospheric pressure P_a ($P_m(0)=P_a$), the intake pipe temperature T_m and exhaust temperature T_e are considered equal to the atmospheric temperature T_a ($T_m(0)=T_a$,

$T_a(0)=T_a$), and the calculation at the models M11 to M13 are started. Further, as the atmospheric pressure P_a and the atmospheric temperature T_a used at the above-mentioned cylinder inflow gas model M10, the atmospheric pressure and the atmospheric temperature when the calculation at the model M10 is started may also be continuously used. It is also possible to use the atmospheric pressure $P_a(t)$ and the atmospheric temperature $T_a(t)$ at the time t .

[0093] Further, in the present embodiment, the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} is calculated from equation (17) utilizing the four parameters of the exhaust pressure P_e , the exhaust temperature T_e , the intake pipe pressure P_m , and the EGR opening degree θ_e , but it is also possible to find the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} from an equation utilizing these four parameters, but differing from equation (17) or to find the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} from a map using these four parameters as arguments.

[0094] Further, according to the present embodiment, the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate is precisely calculated, so the amount of cylinder charging fresh air calculated based on the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate is also precisely calculated and therefore the fuel injection amount for making the air-fuel ratio the target air-fuel ratio is precisely calculated. Further, it is also possible to utilize the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate calculated in accordance with the present embodiment for feedback control of the EGR opening degree so that the amount of EGR control valve passage gas becomes the target value.

[0095] Next, the method of derivation of equation (23) for calculating the exhaust pressure will be explained. The engine load factor (%) is the ratio of the amount (g) of the air actually charged in the cylinder with respect to the amount (g) of gas occupying the maximum volume of the cylinder in the standard state and is found from the

following equation (25):

$$KL(\%) = \frac{M_{c-air}}{\frac{DSP}{NCYL} \cdot \rho_{astd}} \cdot 100 \dots (25)$$

In equation (25), M_{c-air} is the amount of cylinder charging fresh air (g) defined as the amount of fresh air being charged into each cylinder when the intake valve is closed, DSP is the displacement of the internal combustion engine (liters), NCYL is the number of cylinders, and ρ_{astd} is the density of the air at the standard state (1 atmosphere, 25°C) (about 1.2 g/liter).

[0096] Referring to FIG. 13 showing the relationship among the engine load factor KL, the engine speed NE, and the exhaust pressure P_e , it is learned that if the engine load factor KL becomes larger, the exhaust pressure P_e becomes higher and that if the engine speed NE becomes higher, the exhaust pressure P_e becomes higher. Further, the exhaust pressure P_e is mainly largely dependent on the engine load factor KL and the engine speed NE, so the precision of the exhaust pressure found from the engine load factor KL and the engine speed NE is relatively high.

[0097] Therefore, the exhaust pressure P_e can be represented by a function $f_1(KL, NE)$ having the engine load factor KL and the engine speed NE as variables as shown in equation (23). In the first embodiment, this function $f_1(KL, NE)$ is stored in advance in the ROM 34 as a map having the engine load factor KL and the engine speed NE as variables, and the exhaust pressure P_e is calculated from the engine load factor KL, the engine speed NE, and this map. According to this, it is not necessary to provide a sensor for detecting the exhaust pressure in the internal combustion engine, so it is possible to precisely detect the exhaust pressure while keeping down the cost of the internal combustion engine and in turn it is possible to precisely detect the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} .

[0098] Further, in an internal combustion engine with an EGR device, when detecting the exhaust pressure using a map without using a sensor, it was necessary to use a large number of parameters such as the engine speed, fuel injection amount, fuel ignition timing, and EGR rate (ratio of amount (g) of exhaust gas with respect to the amount of gas (g) charged in the cylinder) as arguments. However, in the present embodiment, by using the engine load factor as a parameter, it is sufficient to use a map using the engine load factor and the engine speed as arguments, so according to the present embodiment, the labor involved in preparing maps can be reduced. Of course, if the increased cost of the internal combustion engine is not problematic, it is also possible to detect the exhaust pressure using a sensor.

[0099] Further, in the case of calculating the exhaust pressure from the above function f_1 , instead of the engine speed NE , it is also possible to use the cylinder charging fresh air flow rate m_{c-air} as a variable.

[0100] Next, the method of derivation of the equation (24) for calculating the exhaust temperature T_e will be explained. If the amount of heat caused by the exhaust gas newly flowing into the EGR passage 21 is called the "input amount of heat" and the amount of heat discharged from the EGR passage 21 into the atmosphere is called the "amount of discharged heat", if the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} becomes larger, that is, if the amount of exhaust gas flowing into the EGR passage 21 becomes greater, the amount of input heat will become greater than the amount of discharged heat. Therefore, if the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} becomes greater, the exhaust temperature will become higher. Further, if the engine speed becomes higher, the temperature itself of the exhaust gas discharged from the cylinder will become higher. That is, the relationship between the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} , the engine speed NE , and the exhaust temperature T_e .

becomes as shown in FIG. 14.

[0101] Further, the exhaust temperature T_e is greatly dependent on the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} and engine speed NE, so the precision of the exhaust temperature found from the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} and the engine speed NE is relatively high. Therefore, the exhaust temperature T_e is represented by a function $f_2(m_{egr}, NE)$ having the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} and the engine speed NE as variables as shown in equation (24). In the first embodiment, this function $f_2(m_{egr}, NE)$ is stored in advance in the ROM 34 in the form of a map using the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} and engine speed NE as variables and the exhaust temperature T_e is calculated from the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} , the engine speed NE, and this map.

[0102] According to this, it is not necessary to provide a sensor for detecting the exhaust temperature in the internal combustion engine, so it is possible to precisely detect the exhaust temperature while keeping down the cost of the internal combustion engine and in turn it is possible to precisely calculate the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} . Of course, if the increased cost of the internal combustion engine is not problematic, it is also possible to detect the exhaust temperature using a sensor.

[0103] Further, as explained above, the temperature of the exhaust gas exhausted from the cylinder changes in accordance with the engine speed NE, so it is possible to find the temperature of the exhaust gas from a one-dimensional map using the engine speed NE as an argument. However, when calculating the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} at the EGR control valve model M14, as the exhaust temperature T_e , it is possible to calculate the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} more precisely when using the temperature of the exhaust gas upstream of the EGR control valve 22 rather than using

the temperature of the exhaust gas exhausted from the cylinder. According to the present embodiment, the temperature of the exhaust gas upstream of the EGR control valve 22 is used as the exhaust temperature T_e used for calculating the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} , so it is possible to precisely calculate the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} .

[0104] Further, when calculating the exhaust temperature from the above-mentioned function f_2 , as the variable, it is also possible to use the cylinder charging fresh air flow rate m_{c-air} instead of the engine speed.

[0105] The above embodiment, however, is predicated on steady state operation. Therefore, it is considered that the flow rate of the exhaust gas flowing into the intake pipe portion (hereinafter called the "intake pipe inflow exhaust gas flow rate") is equal to the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate and the flow rate of the exhaust gas flowing into the cylinder (hereinafter called the "cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate") is equal to the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate.

[0106] However, at the time of transient operation, if for example the EGR opening degree changes and the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate changes, the intake pipe inflow exhaust gas flow rate and the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate temporarily become unequal to the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate. That is, these intake pipe inflow exhaust gas flow rate and cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate change with a lag while tracking changes of the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate. Therefore, at the time of transient operation, to maintain the precision of the parameter values calculated in the above embodiment high, it is necessary to consider that the intake pipe inflow exhaust gas flow rate and cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate change with a lag from a change of the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate.

[0107] If considering the intake pipe inflow exhaust gas flow rate when the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate changes, as shown in FIG. 15, the intake pipe inflow exhaust gas flow rate m_{egr-k} does not change until a certain time T_d elapses from when the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} changes. After this certain time T_d elapses, it changes toward the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} while being accompanied by a first-order lag.

[0108] Here, the certain time T_d is the time required until the exhaust gas passing through the EGR control valve 22 reaches the intake pipe portion. The faster the flow rate of the exhaust gas passing through the EGR control valve 22, therefore the lower the intake pipe pressure and therefore the larger the engine speed, the shorter the time T_d . That is, the certain time T_d (hereinafter called the "dead time") is a function of the engine speed as shown in FIG. 16A.

[0109] On the other hand, the time constant τ of the first-order lag represents the ease of diffusion of the exhaust gas passing through the EGR control valve 22. The faster the flow rate of the exhaust gas passing through the EGR control valve 22, therefore the lower the intake pipe pressure and therefore the larger the engine speed, the smaller the time constant τ . That is, the time constant τ , as shown in FIG. 16B, is a function of the engine speed.

[0110] Therefore, in the present embodiment, the dead time T_{d1} is stored in advance in the ROM 34 in the form of a map as shown in FIG. 16A. When the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate changes, the dead time T_{d1} is calculated based on the engine speed NE . It is assumed that the intake pipe inflow exhaust gas flow rate starts changing toward the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate after the elapse of this dead time T_{d1} so as to calculate the intake pipe inflow exhaust gas flow rate.

Further, in the present embodiment, the time constant τ_1 is stored in advance in the ROM 34 in the form of a map as shown in FIG. 16B. The time constant τ_1 is calculated based on the engine speed NE when the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate changes. It is assumed that the intake pipe inflow exhaust gas flow rate changes toward the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate by this time constant τ_1 from when the dead time Td1 elapses so as to calculate the intake pipe inflow exhaust gas flow rate.

[0111] Specifically, if representing the calculation period of the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} as Δt (sec) and representing the number of calculations of the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} by k , the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate $m_{egr}(k)$ at the k -th calculation routine is calculated, then the time constant τ_1 is read from the map as shown in FIG. 16B based on the engine speed NE at this time and the time constant τ_1 is utilized for first-order lag processing of the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate $m_{egr}(k)$ in accordance with the following equation (26) so as to calculate the intake pipe inflow exhaust gas flow rate $m'_{egr-k}(k)$ accompanied with the first-order lag at the time of the k -th calculation routine:

$$m'_{egr-k}(k) = m'_{egr-k}(k-1) + \Delta t / \tau_1 \cdot (m_{egr}(k) - m'_{egr-k}(k-1)) \dots (26)$$

[0112] Further, the dead time Td1 is read from the map shown in FIG. 16A based on the engine speed NE at the time of the same k -th calculation routine. The dead time Td1 is utilized to calculate the number of dead routines Idx1 corresponding to the dead time Td1 in accordance with the following equation (27):

$$Idx1 = \frac{Td1}{\Delta t} \dots (27)$$

[0113] Next, this number of dead routines Idx1 is utilized for dead time processing of the intake pipe inflow exhaust gas flow rate $m'_{egr-k}(k)$ in accordance with

the following equation (28) to calculate the intake pipe inflow exhaust gas flow rate $m_{egr-k}(k)$ at the time of the k-th calculation routine:

$$m_{egr-k}(k) = m'_{egr-k}(k - Idx1) \dots (28)$$

5 [0114] The thinking of the dead time and first-order lag relating to the intake pipe inflow exhaust gas flow rate may be similarly applied to a cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate as well. That is, the dead time Td2 relating to the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate is
10 stored in advance in the ROM 34 in the form of a map as shown in FIG. 17A. When the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate changes, the dead time Td2 is calculated based on the engine speed NE. It is assumed that the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate starts to change toward the
15 EGR control valve passage gas flow rate after the elapse of the dead time Td2 so as to calculate the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate.

[0115] Further, the time constant τ_2 relating to the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate is stored in
20 advance in the ROM 34 in the form of a map as shown in FIG. 17B. When the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate changes, the time constant τ_2 is calculated based on the engine speed NE. It is assumed that the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate changes toward the EGR
25 control valve passage gas flow rate by this time constant τ_2 after the dead time Td2 elapses so as to calculate the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate.

[0116] Specifically, the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate $m_{egr}(k)$ at the k-th calculation routine is
30 calculated, then the time constant τ_2 is read from the map as shown in FIG. 17B based on the engine speed NE at this time and this time constant τ_2 is utilized for first-order lag processing of the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate $m_{egr}(k)$ in accordance with the
35 following equation (29) so as to calculate the cylinder

inflow exhaust gas flow rate $m'_{egr-egr}(k)$ accompanied with the first-order lag at the time of the k-th calculation routine:

$$m'_{egr-egr}(k) = m'_{egr-egr}(k-1) + \Delta t / \tau_1 \cdot (m_{egr}(k) - m'_{egr-egr}(k-1)) \dots (29)$$

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[0117] Further, the dead time $Td2$ is read from the map shown in FIG. 17A based on the engine speed NE at the time of the k-th calculation routine. The dead time $Td2$ is utilized to calculate the number of dead routines $Idx2$ corresponding to the dead time $Td2$ in accordance with the following equation (30):

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$$Idx2 = \frac{Td2}{\Delta t} \dots (30)$$

[0118] Next, this number of dead routines $Idx2$ is utilized for dead time processing of the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate $m_{egr-egr}(k)$ in accordance with the following equation (31) so as to calculate the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate $m_{egr-egr}(k)$ at the time of the k-th calculation routine:

15

$$m_{egr-egr}(k) = m'_{egr-egr}(k - Idx2) \dots (31)$$

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[0119] Note that the distance from the EGR control valve 22 to the cylinder is longer than the distance from the EGR control valve 22 to the intake pipe portion, so the dead time $Td2$ relating to the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate tends to also be longer than the dead time $Td1$ relating to the intake pipe inflow exhaust gas flow rate, while the time constant τ_2 relating to the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate tends to be larger than the time constant τ_1 relating to the intake pipe inflow exhaust gas flow rate.

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[0120] FIG. 18 shows an example of the routine for calculating the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate $m_{egr-egr}$ utilizing the first-order lag processing and dead time processing. In the routine shown in FIG. 18, first, at step 10, the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate $m_{egr}(k)$ is calculated in accordance with the above

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equation (17). Next, at step 11, the time constant τ_2 is read from the map shown in FIG. 17B based on the engine speed NE.

[0121] Further, next, at step 12, the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate $m_{egr}(k)$ calculated at step 10 is subjected to first-order lag processing, whereby the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate $m_{egr-egr}(k)$ accompanied with first-order lag is calculated. That is, here, the above equation (29) is utilized. Next, at step 10 13, the dead time Td_2 is read from the map shown in FIG. 17A based on the engine speed NE. Further, next, at step 14, the number of dead routines Idx_2 is calculated in accordance with equation (30).

[0122] Next, at step 15, the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate $m_{egr-egr}(k)$ calculated at step 12 is subjected to dead time processing in accordance with equation (31). Note that in the above embodiment, the dead time Td (Td_1 , Td_2) and the time constant τ (τ_1 , τ_2) are calculated using the engine speed NE as a variable, but specifically the dead time Td and the time constant τ are substantially proportional to the time taken for the crankshaft to rotate 360° , so as shown in FIG. 19A and FIG. 19B, it is preferable to prepare maps of the dead time Td and the time constant τ using the time T_{360° taken for the crankshaft to rotate 360° as a variable.

[0123] However, the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} changes due to various parameters, for example, the number of steps of the EGR control valve 22, that is, the EGR opening degree θ_e , as will be understood by reference to equation (17). Therefore, when the EGR opening degree θ_e changes, by subjecting the EGR opening degree θ_e itself to dead time processing and lag processing (smoothing processing) and inputting the EGR opening degree θ_e after processing in this way to the above-mentioned equation (17), an intake pipe inflow

exhaust gas flow rate m_{egr-k} or a cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate $m_{egr-egr}$ in a form reflecting the dead time and tracking lag is obtained with respect to a change in the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr}

5 accompanied with changes in the EGR opening degree θ_e .

[0124] For example, when the EGR opening degree θ_e changes, it is also possible to calculate the dead time $Td1$ from the map such as shown in FIG. 20A based on the engine speed NE , start to change the EGR opening degree θ_e after the elapse of the dead time $Td1$, calculate the smoothing number $N1$ from the map such as shown in FIG. 20B based on the engine speed NE , smooth the change in the EGR opening degree θ_e by the smoothing number $N1$, and calculate the intake pipe inflow exhaust gas flow rate m_{egr-k} from equation (17) based on the thus smoothed EGR opening degree θ_e .

[0125] Specifically, when the k -th calculation routine is performed, when the EGR opening degree θ_e for example changes from the value θ_{e1} to the value θ_{e2} , the smoothing number $N1$ is read from the map such as shown in FIG. 20B based on the engine speed NE at that time, the smoothing number $N1$ is utilized to smooth the EGR opening degree θ_{e2} in accordance with the following equation (32), and the EGR opening degree $\theta_e'(k)$ accompanied with the tracking lag at the time of the k -th calculation routine is calculated.

$$\theta_e'(k) = [(N1 - 1) \cdot \theta_e(k - 1) + \theta_{e2}] \dots (32)$$

[0126] Further, the dead time $Td1$ is read from the map shown in FIG. 20A based on the engine speed NE at the time of the k -th calculation routine. The dead time $Td1$ is utilized to calculate the number of dead routines $Idx1$ corresponding to the dead time $Td1$ in accordance with the following equation (33):

$$Idx1 = \frac{Td1}{\Delta t} \dots (33)$$

[0127] Next, this number of dead routines Idx1 is utilized to subject the EGR opening degree $\theta_e'(k)$ to dead time processing in accordance with the following equation (34) to calculate the EGR opening degree $\theta_e(k)$ at the time of the k-th calculation routine:

$$\theta_e(k) = \theta_e'(k - Idx1) \dots (34)$$

Further, the value calculated by inputting this $\theta_e(k)$ into equation (17) represents the true intake pipe inflow exhaust gas flow rate $m_{egr-k}(k)$ at the time of the k-th calculation routine.

[0128] Of course, similar thinking to this also applies to the case of calculating the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate. That is, when the EGR opening degree θ_e changes, it is also possible to calculate the dead time Td2 from the map such as shown in FIG. 21A based on the engine speed NE, start to change the EGR opening degree θ_e after the elapse of the dead time Td2, calculate the smoothing number N2 from the map such as shown in FIG. 21B based on the engine speed NE, smooth the change in the EGR opening degree θ_e by the smoothing number N2, and calculate the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate $m_{egr-egr}$ from equation (17) based on the thus smoothed EGR opening degree θ_e .

[0129] Specifically, when the k-th calculation routine is performed, when the EGR opening degree θ_e for example changes from the value θ_{e1} to the value θ_{e2} , the smoothing number N2 is read from the map such as shown in FIG. 21B based on the engine speed NE at that time, the smoothing number N2 is utilized to smooth the EGR opening degree θ_{e2} in accordance with the following equation (35), and the EGR opening degree $\theta_e'(k)$ accompanied with the tracking lag at the time of the k-th calculation routine

is calculated.

$$\theta_e'(k) = [(N2 - 1) \cdot \theta_e(k - 1) + \theta_e 2] \dots (35)$$

[0130] Further, the dead time Td2 is read from the map shown in FIG. 21A based on the engine speed NE at the time of the k-th calculation routine. The dead time Td2 is utilized to calculate the number of dead routines Idx2 corresponding to the dead time Td2 in accordance with the following equation (36):

$$Idx2 = \frac{Td2}{\Delta t} \dots (36)$$

[0131] Next, this number of dead routines Idx2 is utilized to subject the EGR opening degree $\theta_e'(k)$ to dead time processing in accordance with the following equation (37) to calculate the EGR opening degree $\theta_e(k)$ at the time of the k-th calculation routine:

$$\theta_e(k) = \theta_e'(k - Idx2) \dots (37)$$

Further, the value calculated by inputting this $\theta_e(k)$ into equation (17) represents the true intake pipe inflow exhaust gas flow rate $m_{egr-k}(k)$ at the time of the k-th calculation routine. Note that instead of the above smoothing number, it is also possible to use the above time constants $\tau 1$ and $\tau 2$.

[0132] FIG. 22 shows an example of the routine for calculating the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate $m_{egr-egr}$ utilizing the smoothing processing (tracking lag processing) and dead time processing as explained above. In the routine shown in FIG. 22, first, at step 20, the EGR opening degree $\theta_e(k)$ at the k-th calculation routine is read. Next, at step 21, the smoothing number N2 is read from the map such as shown in FIG. 21B based on the engine speed NE.

[0133] Further, next, at step 22, the EGR opening degree $\theta_e(k)$ detected at step 20 is smoothed, whereby the EGR opening degree $\theta_e'(k)$ reflecting the tracking lag is calculated. That is, here, the above equation (35) is

utilized. Next, at step 23, the dead time $Td2$ is read from the map such as shown in FIG. 21A based on the engine speed NE . Further, next, at step 24, the number of dead routines $Idx2$ is calculated in accordance with equation (36). Next, at step 25, the EGR opening degree $\theta'_e(k)$ reflecting the tracking lag calculated at step 22 is processed for dead time in accordance with equation (37). Further, next, at step 26, the $\theta_e(k)$ calculated at step 25 is input to the above equation (17), whereby the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate $m_{egr-egr}(k)$ is calculated.

[0134] However, in the above embodiment, the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate $m_{egr-egr}$ is utilized to calculate the cylinder inflow fresh air amount M_{c-air} and finally the fuel injection amount is determined based on the amount of cylinder inflow fresh air M_{c-air} so that the air-fuel ratio becomes the target air-fuel ratio. In other words, the above embodiment determines the fuel injection amount predicated on the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate $m_{egr-egr}$ being the same value for each cylinder. However, sometimes the actual cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate $m_{egr-egr}$ differs for each cylinder due to the shape of the channel from the EGR control valve 22 to each cylinder or various other factors. Therefore, to determine the fuel injection amount so that the air-fuel ratio becomes more accurately the target air-fuel ratio, the fact that the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate $m_{egr-egr}$ differs for each cylinder should be considered.

[0135] Therefore, it is also possible to find the ratio of the actual cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate at each cylinder with respect to the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate $m_{egr-egr}$ calculated at the above embodiment in advance by experiments etc. as the distribution coefficient or find it each time a specific condition stands during engine operation, multiply the

cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate $m_{egr-egr}$ calculated at the above embodiment with this distribution coefficient, and utilize the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate $m_{egr-egr}$ after reflection of this distribution coefficient to determine the fuel injection amount for each cylinder. If adopting this method, the air-fuel ratio becomes the target air-fuel ratio more accurately.

[0136] Note that the distribution coefficient for each cylinder is for example found in advance by experiments etc. or is found during engine operation as follows. That is, in the operating state where the EGR rate (amount of cylinder charging exhaust gas/amount of cylinder charging gas) is the largest, the EGR opening degree is made constant, the throttle opening degree is made constant, then the same amount of fuel is injected at each cylinder, the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust gas exhausted from each cylinder at that time is detected, and the air-fuel ratio at each cylinder is estimated based on the detected value of the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust gas.

[0137] Here, for a cylinder where the air-fuel ratio is estimated to be lean, air is charged into the cylinder more than imagined and therefore the exhaust gas is not charged in the cylinder as much as expected. In this case, the distribution coefficient for the cylinder becomes smaller than 1.0. Specifically, if calculating in reverse the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate relating to the cylinder based on the estimated air-fuel ratio and dividing the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate calculated by reverse calculation by the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate calculated in the above embodiment, the distribution coefficient relating to the cylinder is calculated. On other hand, even for a cylinder where the air-fuel ratio is estimated as being rich, by similar thinking, the distribution coefficient can be calculated. In this case, the distribution coefficient becomes larger than 1.0.

[0138] FIG. 23 shows an example of the routine for

calculating the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate $m_{egr-egr}$ considering the distribution coefficient for each cylinder. The following routine is applied to an internal combustion engine provided with four cylinders. In the

5 routine shown in FIG. 23, first, at step 30, the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate $m_{egr}(k)$ is calculated in accordance with the above equation (17). Next, at step 31, the time constant τ_2 is read from the map such as shown in FIG. 17B based on the engine speed NE.

10 [0139] Further, next, at step 32, the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate $m_{egr}(k)$ calculated at step 30 is subjected to first-order lag processing and the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate $m'_{egr-egr}(k)$ accompanied with first-order lag is calculated. That is,

15 here, the above equation (29) is utilized. Next, at step 33, the dead time Td_2 is read from the map such as shown in FIG. 17A based on the engine speed NE. Further, next, at step 34, the number of dead routines Idx_2 is calculated in accordance with equation (30).

20 [0140] Next, at step 35, the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate $m'_{egr-egr}(k)$ calculated at step 32 is processed with respect to dead time in accordance with equation (31). Further, finally, at step 36, the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate $m_{egr-egr}(k)$ calculated at step

25 35 is multiplied with the distribution coefficients K_1 to K_4 relating to the cylinders in accordance with the following equations (38) so as to calculate the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate $m_{egr-egr}(k)(1)$ to (4):

$$\begin{aligned}
 m_{egr-egr}(k)(1) &= m_{egr-egr}(k) \cdot K_1 \\
 m_{egr-egr}(k)(2) &= m_{egr-egr}(k) \cdot K_2 \\
 m_{egr-egr}(k)(3) &= m_{egr-egr}(k) \cdot K_3 \\
 m_{egr-egr}(k)(4) &= m_{egr-egr}(k) \cdot K_4
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{38}$$

30 [0141] Note that in equation (38), $m_{egr-egr}(k)(1)$ is the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate relating to the first cylinder, K_1 is the distribution coefficient relating to the first cylinder, $m_{egr-egr}(k)(2)$ is the

35 cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate relating to the

second cylinder, K_2 is the distribution coefficient relating to the second cylinder, $m_{egr-egr}(k)$ (3) is the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate relating to the third cylinder, K_3 is the distribution coefficient relating to the third cylinder, $m_{egr-egr}(k)$ (4) is the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate relating to the fourth cylinder, and K_4 is the distribution coefficient relating to the fourth cylinder.

[0142] However, the above embodiment found the distribution coefficient for each cylinder and found the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate $m_{egr-egr}$ for each cylinder considering the fact that the actual cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate $m_{egr-egr}$ differs with each cylinder due to the shape of the channel from the EGR control valve 22 to each cylinder and various other factors, but for example when the channel length from the EGR control valve 22 to each cylinder is extremely long and the channel resistance there is extremely large, the dead time, time constant, or smoothing number also differ.

[0143] Therefore, as in the above embodiment, not only is it possible to reflect the distribution coefficient to the found cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate $m_{egr-egr}$, but also it is possible to reflect the distribution coefficient in the dead time, time constant, or smoothing number. That is, more specifically, in the above embodiment, only the found cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate $m_{egr-egr}$ is multiplied with the distribution coefficient, but it is also possible to multiply the dead time and time constant or the smoothing number with the same distribution coefficient for each cylinder. According to this, the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate $m_{egr-egr}$ is calculated for each cylinder more accurately.

[0144] FIG. 24 shows an example of the routine for calculating the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate $m_{egr-egr}$ at each cylinder by reflecting the distribution

coefficient for each cylinder in the dead time and the time constant. In the routine shown in FIG. 24, at step 40, the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} is calculated from equation (17). Next, at step 41, the time constant τ_2 is read from the map shown in FIG. 17B based on the engine speed NE. Next, at step 42, the dead time Td_2 is read from the map shown in FIG. 17A based on the engine speed NE. Next, at step 43, 1 is input to the parameter cyl showing the number of the cylinder. In this case, cyl=1, so the parameter cyl shows the first cylinder.

[0145] Next, at step 44, it is judged if the parameter cyl is the total number Ncyl of cylinders or less (cyl \leq Ncyl). Here, when it is judged that cyl \leq Ncyl, the routine proceeds to step 45. Here, the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate $m_{egr}(k)$ in the k-th calculation routine is calculated from the above equation (17).

[0146] Next, at step 46, the time constant τ_2 relating to the corresponding cylinder (cyl), that is, the time constant $\tau_2(1)$ relating to the first cylinder when the parameter cyl is 1 and the time constant $\tau_2(2)$ relating to the second cylinder when the parameter cyl is 2, is calculated in accordance with the following equation (39):

$$\tau_2(cyl) = K(cyl) \cdot \tau_2 \dots (39)$$

Here, $K(cyl)$ is the distribution coefficient relating to each cylinder. For example, when the parameter cyl is 1, it is the distribution coefficient $K(1)$ relating to the first cylinder, while when the parameter cyl is 2, it is the distribution coefficient $K(2)$ relating to the second cylinder.

[0147] Next, at step 47, the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate $m_{egr}(k)$ is subjected to first-order processing in accordance with the following equation (40) and the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate m'_{egr} .

$m_{egr}(cyl)(k)$ relating to the corresponding cylinder in the k -th calculation routine is calculated.

$$m'_{egr-egr}(cyl)(k) = m'_{egr-egr}(cyl)(k-1) + \Delta t / r2(cyl) \cdot (m_{egr}(cyl)(k) - m'_{egr-egr}(cyl)(k-1)) \dots (40)$$

Here, Δt is the calculation period of the EGR control

5 valve passage gas flow rate.

[0148] Next, at step 48, the number of dead routines $Idx2$ corresponding to the dead time relating to the corresponding cylinder is calculated in accordance with the following equation (41):

$$10 \quad Idx2 = K(cyl) \cdot Td2 / \Delta t \dots (41)$$

Next, at step 49, the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate $m_{egr-egr}(cyl)(k)$ relating to the corresponding cylinder at the k -th calculation routine is calculated in the dead time processed form from the following equation (42):

$$15 \quad m_{egr-egr}(cyl)(k) = m'_{egr-egr}(cyl)(k - Idx2) \dots (42)$$

[0149] Next, at step 50, the parameter cyl is increased by exactly 1 and the routine returns to step 44. Therefore, if the parameter cyl is 1 when the routine reaches step 50, the parameter cyl is made 2 at step 50 and steps 44 to 49 are repeated.

[0150] Further, if the parameter cyl is 4 when the routine reaches step 50, the parameter cyl is made 5 at step 50. When the routine returns to step 44, it is judged at step 44 that $cyl > Ncyl$ and the routine proceeds to step 51. That is, when it is judged at step 44 that $cyl > Ncyl$, the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate $m_{egr-egr}(cyl)(k)$ is calculated with respect to all cylinders. Note that at step 51, zero is input to the parameter cyl , that is, the parameter cyl is cleared. Note that this routine can also be utilized as a routine for calculating the intake pipe inflow exhaust gas flow rate m_{egr-k} flowing into each intake tube 13 if changing $Td2$ to $Td1$ and $r2$ to $r1$.

[0151] There is known an internal combustion engine provided with a valve timing changing mechanism for changing the closing timing of the intake valve. For example, in one certain valve timing changing mechanism, it is possible to change the closing timing of the intake valve to after bottom dead center of the intake stroke. When the intake valve closes after bottom dead center of the intake stroke, part of the gas flowing into the cylinder once is exhausted by the piston in the cylinder from the cylinder to the intake passage. Further, the amount of the gas exhausted from the cylinder to the intake passage in this way (hereinafter referred to as the "blowback gas") differs depending on at what timing after bottom dead center of the intake stroke the intake valve closes and becomes greater the more retarded the timing the intake valve closes from after bottom dead center of the intake stroke.

[0152] That is, in an internal combustion engine provided with a valve timing mechanism changing the closing timing of the intake valve after bottom dead center of the intake stroke, if the closing timing of the intake valve is changed by the valve timing mechanism, the amount of blowback gas changes. Here, if considering the diffusion of the exhaust gas in the intake passage in the case where the gas is exhausted from the cylinder to the intake passage, the greater the amount of the blowback gas, the more the diffusion of the exhaust gas in the intake passage tends to be suppressed. That is, the greater the amount of the blowback gas, the more the diffusion of the exhaust gas flowing into the intake passage through the EGR control valve 22 tends to be suppressed. That is, this means that the greater the amount of the blowback gas, that is, the more retarded the closing timing of the intake valve, the greater the above time constant τ_2 .

[0153] Further, if considering the EGR passage 21, the pressure in the EGR passage 21 is much higher than the

pressure in the intake passage, so even if the gas is exhausted from the cylinder to the intake passage, this gas will never flow into the EGR passage 21. Therefore, even if gas is exhausted from the cylinder to the intake passage, the time taken for the exhaust gas passing through the EGR control valve 22 to reach the cylinder will not change that much. That is, this means that the above dead time $Td2$ does not change that much regardless of the amount of the blowback gas, that is, regardless of the closing timing of the intake valve.

[0154] Therefore, in an internal combustion engine designed so that the closing timing of the intake valve can be changed after bottom dead center of the intake stroke considering the fact that the above time constant $\tau2$ changes in accordance with the closing timing of the intake valve, in the above embodiment, it is also possible to determine the dead time $Td2$ and the time constant $\tau2$ in accordance with the intake valve closing timing by the relationships as shown in FIG. 25A and FIG. 25B.

[0155] As shown in FIG. 25A, here, no matter what angle after bottom dead center BDC of the intake stroke the intake valve closing crank angle CA corresponding to the closing timing of the intake valve is, the dead time $Td2$ becomes constant. On the other hand, as shown in FIG. 25B, the more retarded the intake valve closing crank angle CA is from bottom dead center BDC of the intake stroke, the larger the time constant $\tau2$ becomes.

[0156] Note that as explained above, the dead time $Td2$ and the time constant $\tau2$ are also dependent on the engine speed NE , so it is also possible to determine the dead time $Td2$ and the time constant $\tau2$ as functions of the engine speed NE and intake valve closing timing. For example, in this case, the dead time $Td2$ and the time constant $\tau2$ when the closing timing of the intake valve

is bottom dead center of the intake stroke are found in advance and stored in the ROM 34 in the form of maps as shown in FIG. 17A and FIG. 17B using the engine speed NE as a variable.

5 [0157] Further, as the dead time, use is made of the dead time $Td2$ found from the map shown in FIG. 17A based on the engine speed NE multiplied with the correction coefficient Ktd found from the map shown in FIG. 26A based on the intake valve closing crank angle CA. In this
10 case, as will be understood from FIG. 26A, the correction coefficient Ktd is a constant 1.0 regardless of the intake valve closing crank angle CA, so de facto the dead time $Td2$ found from the map shown in FIG. 17A is used as it is.

15 [0158] On the other hand, as the time constant, use is made of the time constant $\tau2$ found from the map shown in FIG. 17B based on the engine speed NE multiplied with the correction coefficient $K\tau$ found from the map shown in FIG. 26B based on the intake valve closing crank angle
20 CA. In this case, as will be understood from FIG. 26B, the correction coefficient $K\tau$ is 1.0 when the intake valve closing crank angle CA is the bottom dead center BDC of the intake stroke and is a value which becomes larger the more retarded the intake valve closing crank
25 angle CA from the bottom dead center BDC of the intake stroke.

[0159] Note that in an internal combustion engine designed so that the intake valve closing timing can be changed after bottom dead center of the intake stroke, it
30 is also possible to determine the above dead time $Td1$ and time constant $\tau1$ by relationships similar to the relationships shown in FIG. 25A and FIG. 25B. In this case, the dead time $Td1$ and the time constant $\tau1$ are values smaller than the dead time $Td2$ and the time
35 constant $\tau2$.

[0160] Further, it is also possible to determine the dead time T_{d1} and the time constant τ_1 as a function of the engine speed NE and the intake valve closing timing. For example, in this case, the dead time T_{d1} and the time constant τ_1 at the time when the intake valve closing timing is bottom dead center of the intake stroke are found in advance and stored in the ROM 34 in the form of maps as shown in FIG. 16A and FIG. 16B using the engine speed NE as variables.

[0161] Further, as the dead time, use is made of the dead time T_{d1} found from the map shown in FIG. 16A based on the engine speed NE multiplied with the correction coefficient K_{td} found from the map shown in FIG. 26A based on the intake valve closing crank angle CA . In this case, as will be understood from FIG. 26A, the correction coefficient K_{td} is a constant 1.0 regardless of the intake valve closing crank angle CA , so de facto the dead time T_{d1} found from the map shown in FIG. 16A is used as it is.

[0162] On the other hand, as the time constant, use is made of the time constant τ_1 found from the map shown in FIG. 16B based on the engine speed NE multiplied with the correction coefficient K_τ found from the map shown in FIG. 26B based on the intake valve closing crank angle CA . In this case, as will be understood from FIG. 26B, the correction coefficient K_τ is 1.0 when the intake valve closing crank angle CA is the bottom dead center BDC of the intake stroke and is a value which becomes larger the more retarded the intake valve closing crank angle CA from the bottom dead center BDC of the intake stroke.

[0163] However, in an internal combustion engine provided with a valve timing mechanism changing the closing timing of the intake valve before the bottom dead center of the intake stroke, if the closing timing of the

intake valve is changed by the valve timing mechanism, the amount of blowback gas is almost zero, but the total amount of gas charged in the cylinder changes. Here, if the amount of blowback gas is almost zero, even if the closing timing of the intake valve changes before bottom dead center of the intake stroke, the change in closing timing of the intake valve has no effect at all on the diffusion of the exhaust gas in the intake passage. That is, this means that the time constant τ_2 is constant regardless of the closing timing of the intake valve.

[0164] On the other hand, if considering the time taken for the exhaust gas to reach the cylinder from the EGR control valve 22 in the case where the total amount of gas charged in the cylinder changes, the smaller the total amount of gas charged in the cylinder, the longer the time tends to become.

[0165] That is, this means that the smaller the total amount of gas charged in the cylinder, that is, the more advanced the closing timing of the intake valve in the range before bottom dead center of the intake stroke, the longer the dead time T_{d2} .

[0166] In an internal combustion engine designed to enable change of the closing timing of the intake valve before bottom dead center of the intake stroke considering the fact that the above dead time T_{d2} changes in accordance with the closing timing of the intake valve, in the above embodiment, it is also possible to determine the dead time T_{d2} and the time constant τ_2 in accordance with the closing timing of the intake valve by a relation such as shown in FIG. 27A and FIG. 27B. As shown in FIG. 27A, the more advanced the intake valve closing crank angle CA before bottom dead center BDC of the intake stroke, the larger the dead time T_{d2} .

[0167] On the other hand, as shown in FIG. 27B, no matter what the intake valve closing crank angle CA before bottom dead center BDC of the intake stroke, the

time constant τ_2 becomes constant. Note that as explained above, the dead time T_{d2} and the time constant τ_2 are also dependent on the engine speed NE , so it is also possible to determine the dead time T_{d2} and the time constant τ_2 as a relation between the engine speed NE and the intake valve closing timing. For example, in this case, the dead time T_{d2} and the time constant τ_2 when the closing timing of the intake valve is at bottom dead center of the intake stroke are found in advance and stored in the ROM 34 in the form of a map as shown in FIG. 17A and FIG. 17B using the engine speed NE as a variable.

[0168] Further, as the dead time, use is made of the dead time T_{d2} found from the map shown in FIG. 17A based on the engine speed NE multiplied with a correction coefficient K_{td} found from the map shown in FIG. 28A based on the intake valve closing crank angle CA . In this case, as will be understood from FIG. 28A, the correction coefficient K_{td} is 1.0 when the intake valve closing crank angle CA is at bottom dead center BDC of the intake stroke and is a value which becomes larger the more advanced the intake valve closing crank angle CA from bottom dead center BDC of the intake stroke.

[0169] On the other hand, as the time constant, use is made of the time constant τ_2 found from the map shown in FIG. 17B based on the engine speed NE multiplied with the correction coefficient K_{τ} found from the map shown in FIG. 28B based on the intake valve closing crank angle CA . In this case, as will be understood from FIG. 28B, the correction coefficient K_{τ} is 1.0 regardless of the intake valve closing crank angle CA , so de facto the time constant τ_2 found from the map shown in FIG. 17B is used as it is.

[0170] Note that in an internal combustion engine designed so that the intake valve closing timing can be

changed before bottom dead center of the intake stroke, it is also possible to determine the above dead time $Td1$ and time constant $\tau1$ by relationships similar to the relationships shown in FIG. 27A and FIG. 27B. In this case, the dead time $Td1$ and the time constant $\tau1$ are values smaller than the dead time $Td2$ and the time constant $\tau2$.

[0171] Further, it is also possible to determine the dead time $Td1$ and the time constant $\tau1$ as a function of the engine speed NE and the intake valve closing timing. For example, in this case, the dead time $Td1$ and the time constant $\tau1$ at the time when the intake valve closing timing is bottom dead center of the intake stroke are found in advance and stored in the ROM 34 in the form of maps as shown in FIG. 16A and FIG. 16B using the engine speed NE as variables.

[0172] Further, as the dead time, use is made of the dead time $Td1$ found from the map shown in FIG. 16A based on the engine speed NE multiplied with the correction coefficient Ktd found from the map shown in FIG. 28A based on the intake valve closing crank angle CA . In this case, as will be understood from FIG. 28A, the correction coefficient Ktd is a constant 1.0 when the intake valve closing crank angle CA is at bottom dead center BDC of the intake stroke and is a value becoming larger the more advanced the intake valve closing crank angle CA than bottom dead center of the intake valve.

[0173] On the other hand, as the time constant, use is made of the time constant $\tau1$ found from the map shown in FIG. 16B based on the engine speed NE multiplied with the correction coefficient $K\tau$ found from the map shown in FIG. 28B based on the intake valve closing crank angle CA . In this case, as will be understood from FIG. 28B, the correction coefficient $K\tau$ is 1.0 regardless of the intake valve closing crank angle CA and de facto the time

constant τ_1 found from the map shown in FIG. 16B is used as it is.

[0174] There is known an internal combustion engine provided with a valve timing mechanism enabling the intake valve closing timing to be changed skipping bottom dead center of the intake stroke. Such a valve timing mechanism for example adopts a mechanism opening or closing the intake valve electromagnetically. When able to change the intake valve closing timing skipping the bottom dead center of the intake stroke in this way, the intake valve closing timing is changed before bottom dead center of the intake stroke or is changed after bottom dead center of the intake stroke, so the above dead time Td_2 and time constant τ_2 become different.

[0175] Here, when the intake valve closing timing is changed before bottom dead center of the intake stroke, the dead time Td_2 and the time constant τ_2 exhibit the tendency explained in relation to FIG. 27A and FIG. 27B. On the other hand, when the intake valve closing timing is changed after bottom dead center of the intake stroke, the dead time Td_2 and the time constant τ_2 exhibit the tendency explained in relation to FIG. 25A and FIG. 25B.

[0176] Therefore, in an internal combustion engine designed so that the intake valve closing timing can be changed skipping bottom dead center of the intake stroke, in the above embodiment, it is also possible to determine the dead time Td_2 and the time constant τ_2 in accordance with the intake valve closing timing by the relationships shown in FIG. 29A and FIG. 29B.

[0177] As shown in FIG. 29A, here, in the region before bottom dead center BDC of the intake stroke, the more advanced the intake valve closing crank angle CA, the larger the dead time Td_2 . In the region after bottom dead center BDC of the intake stroke, the dead time Td_2 becomes constant regardless of the intake valve closing

crank angle CA. On the other hand, as shown in FIG. 29B, here, in the region before bottom dead center BDC of the intake stroke, the time constant τ_2 becomes constant regardless of the intake valve closing crank angle CA, while in the region after bottom dead center BDC of the intake valve, the time constant τ_2 becomes larger the more retarded the intake valve closing crank angle CA. Note that as explained above, the dead time T_{d2} and the time constant τ_2 are also dependent on the engine speed NE, so it is also possible to determine the dead time T_{d2} and the time constant τ_2 as a function of the engine speed NE and the intake valve closing timing.

[0178] For example, in this case, the dead time T_{d2} and the time constant τ_2 when the intake valve closing timing is at bottom dead center of the intake stroke are found in advance and stored in the ROM 34 in the form of maps as shown in FIG. 17A and FIG. 17B using the engine speed NE as a variable.

[0179] Further, as the dead time, use is made of the dead time T_{d2} found from the map shown in FIG. 17A based on the engine speed NE multiplied with the correction coefficient K_{td} found from the map shown in FIG. 30A based on the intake valve closing crank angle CA. Here, in the map shown in FIG. 30A, in the region before bottom dead center BDC of the intake stroke, the correction coefficient K_{td} becomes larger the more advanced the intake valve closing crank angle CA, while in the region after bottom dead center BDC of the intake stroke, the correction coefficient is a constant 1.0 regardless of the intake valve closing crank angle CA.

[0180] On the other hand, as the time constant, use is made of the time constant τ_2 found from the map shown in FIG. 17B based on the engine speed NE multiplied with the correction coefficient K_τ found from the map shown in FIG. 30B based on the intake valve closing crank angle

CA. Here, in the map of FIG. 30B, in the region before bottom dead center BDC of the intake stroke, the correction coefficient K_r is a constant 1.0 regardless of the intake valve closing crank angle CA, while in the region after bottom dead center BDC of the intake stroke, the correction coefficient K_r becomes larger the more retarded the intake valve closing crank angle CA. Note that in an internal combustion engine designed so that the intake valve closing timing can be changed skipping bottom dead center of the intake stroke, it is also possible to determine the above dead time T_{d1} and time constant τ_1 by relationships similar to the relationships shown in FIG. 29A and FIG. 29B. In this case, the dead time T_{d1} and the time constant τ_1 are values smaller than the dead time T_{d2} and the time constant τ_2 .

[0181] Further, it is also possible to determine the dead time T_{d1} and the time constant τ_1 as a function of the engine speed NE and the intake valve closing timing. For example, in this case, the dead time T_{d1} and the time constant τ_1 at the time when the intake valve closing timing is bottom dead center of the intake stroke are found in advance and stored in the ROM 34 in the form of maps as shown in FIG. 16A and FIG. 16B using the engine speed NE as variables.

[0182] Further, as the dead time, use is made of the dead time T_{d1} found from the map shown in FIG. 16A based on the engine speed NE multiplied with the correction coefficient K_{td} found from the map shown in FIG. 30A based on the intake valve closing crank angle CA.

[0183] On the other hand, as the time constant, use is made of the time constant τ_1 found from the map shown in FIG. 16B based on the engine speed NE multiplied with the correction coefficient K_r found from the map shown in FIG. 30B based on the intake valve closing crank angle

CA.

[0184] In the above embodiment, however, the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} is calculated utilizing calculation equations, that is, equations (17) and (18), but the inventors devised the method of calculating the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} relatively simply even without utilizing such calculation equations. Therefore, in the above embodiment, instead of utilizing equations (17) and (18), it is also possible to utilize the method explained below to calculate the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate.

[0185] It is known that the amount of cylinder charging gas M_c is represented by the first-order function equation of the intake pipe pressure P_m when the intake valve 6 is closed. That is, according to theory and experience, the amount of cylinder charging gas M_c is proportional to the cylinder pressure when the intake valve 6 is closed, while the cylinder pressure substantially matches the air-fuel mixture pressure upstream of the intake valve 6, that is, the intake pipe pressure P_m . Only fresh air is charged in the cylinder when the EGR gas is not being supplied, so it is possible to represent the amount of cylinder charging fresh air M_{c-air} at this time, therefore, the engine load factor KL at this time, by a first-order function equation of the intake pipe pressure P_m . That is, it is possible to easily and accurately find the engine load factor KL .

[0186] However, the situation is completely different when EGR gas is being supplied. The cylinder is charged with not only fresh air, but also EGR gas. Therefore, in the past, it had been thought that the amount of cylinder charging fresh air M_{c-air} or the engine load factor KL could not be represented by a first-order function equation of the intake pipe pressure P_m . If it were possible to represent the amount of cylinder charging EGR gas M_{c-egr} by a first-order function equation of the intake pipe pressure P_m , it would be possible to represent the

amount of cylinder charging gas M_c by a first-order function equation of the intake pipe pressure P_m .

Considering the fact that the amount of cylinder charging gas M_c is the sum of the amount of cylinder charging fresh air M_{c-air} and the amount of cylinder charging EGR gas M_{c-egr} , it would be possible to represent the amount of cylinder charging fresh air M_{c-air} or the engine load factor KL when the EGR gas is supplied by a first-order function equation of the intake pipe pressure P_m .

[0187] However, in the past, it had been thought that the amount of cylinder charging EGR gas M_{c-egr} also could not be represented by a first-order function equation of the intake pipe pressure P_m . This will be explained while referring to FIG. 12 and FIG. 31. First, as explained above, the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} (g/sec) is represented by equation (17), while the function $\Phi(P_m/P_e)$ is represented by equation (18).

[0188] Here, if the exhaust pressure P_e is made the atmospheric pressure P_a for simplifying the calculation, the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} represented by equation (17) becomes as shown in FIG. 31. That is, the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} is maintained substantially constant when the intake pipe pressure P_m is small, while is reduced toward atmospheric pressure P_a while exhibiting nonlinearity with respect to the intake pipe pressure P_m as shown by NR in FIG. 31 if the intake pipe pressure P_m becomes high. Note that the nonlinear portion NR is due to the portion of $P_e/\sqrt{T_e}$ and the function $\Phi(P_m/P_e)$ in equation (17).

[0189] Therefore, it had been thought that the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} , in particular the nonlinear portion NR, could not be represented by a first-order function equation of the intake pipe pressure P_m . Of course, if using a considerably large number of first-order function equations, it is considered that the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} can be

represented by first-order function equations of the intake pipe pressure P_m . However, in this case, it can no longer be said that the engine load factor KL is found simply.

5 [0190] However, according to the inventors, it was found that it is possible to represent the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{ogr} by two first-order function equations of the intake pipe pressure P_m and therefore it is possible to represent the amount of
10 cylinder charging fresh air M_{c-air} or the engine load factor KL by two first-order function equations of the intake pipe pressure P_m . That is, first, as shown by FIG. 32, the exhaust temperature T_e increases more with respect to the increase of the intake pipe pressure P_m
15 than the exhaust pressure P_e increases and as a result it is possible to represent $P_e/\sqrt{T_e}$ by a first-order function equation of the intake pipe pressure P_m .

[0191] Further, the function $\Phi(P_m/P_e)$ can also be represented by a first-order function equation of the
20 intake pipe pressure P_m . This will be explained with reference to FIG. 33A and FIG. 33B. Considering the fact that the exhaust pressure P_e is not maintained at a constant atmospheric pressure P_a , but fluctuates in accordance with the intake pipe pressure P_m , as shown in
25 FIG. 33A, the function $\Phi(P_m/P_e)$ when the intake pipe pressure P_m is P_{m1} is not on a curve C_a converging at the atmospheric pressure P_a , but is on the curve $C1$ converging on the exhaust pressure P_{e1} . This is represented by the plot (o). In the same way, the
30 $\Phi(P_m/P_e)$ when $P_m=P_{m2}$ ($>P_{m1}$) is on the curve $C2$ converging on the exhaust pressure P_{e2} ($>P_{e1}$), while the $\Phi(P_m/P_e)$ when $P_m=P_{m3}$ ($>P_{m2}$) is on the curve $C3$ converging on the exhaust pressure P_{e3} ($>P_{e2}$).

[0192] The plot obtained in this way, as shown in FIG.
35 33B, can be connected by the line $L2$. Therefore, the

function $\Phi(P_m/P_o)$ can be represented by a first-order function equation of the intake pipe pressure P_m corresponding to the line L1 when the intake pipe pressure P_m is small and by a first-order function equation of the intake pipe pressure P_m corresponding to the line L2 when the intake pipe pressure P_m is large and therefore can be represented by two first-order function equations of the intake pipe pressure P_m . That is, the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} can be represented by two first-order function equations of the intake pipe pressure P_m .

[0193] Here, at the time of steady state operation, the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} (g/sec) and the cylinder inflow EGR gas flow rate m_{c-egr} (g/sec) are equal. Further, the amount of cylinder charging EGR gas M_{c-egr} is obtained by multiplying the cylinder inflow EGR gas flow rate m_{c-egr} with the time ΔT (sec) required for one intake stroke of each cylinder, that is, obtained by dividing the time required for one cycle of the internal combustion engine by the number of cylinders. This being so, it is possible to represent the amount of cylinder EGR gas M_{c-egr} at the time of steady state operation by a first-order function equation of the intake pipe pressure P_m .

[0194] Therefore, the amount of cylinder charging fresh air M_{c-air} or the engine load factor KL at the time of steady state operation and when the EGR gas is being supplied can be represented by two first-order function equations of the intake pipe pressure P_m .

[0195] If making the engine load factor KL at the time the EGR gas is being supplied KL_{on} , FIG. 34 shows an example of the two first-order function equations of the intake pipe pressure P_m representing the engine load factor KL_{on} at the time of steady state operation (when the engine speed NE and the EGR opening degree θ_e are held constant). As shown in FIG. 34, the engine load

factor K_{Lon} is represented by two first-order function equations of the intake pipe pressure P_m with different gradients and connected at the connection point CP. That is, when the intake pipe pressure P_m is small, the engine load factor K_{Lon} is represented by a first-order function equation of the gradient e_1 , while when the intake pipe pressure P_m is high, the engine load factor K_{Lon} is represented by a first-order function equation of the gradient e_2 .

[0196] Here, if the gradients of the two first-order functions are e_1 and e_2 and the intake pipe pressure and engine load factor at the connection point CP are \underline{d} and \underline{r} , these two first-order functions can be represented by the following equations:

$$\begin{aligned} K_{Lon} &= e_1 \cdot (P_m - d) + r & \dots & P_m \leq d \\ K_{Lon} &= e_2 \cdot (P_m - d) + r & \dots & P_m > d \end{aligned}$$

If representing these together, the following equation (43) is obtained:

$$K_{Lon} = e \cdot (p_m - d) + r \quad (43)$$

$$\begin{aligned} e &= e_1 & \dots & P_m \leq d \\ e &= e_2 & \dots & P_m > d \end{aligned}$$

[0197] In this embodiment, the two first-order function equations of the intake pipe pressure P_m representing the engine load factor K_{Lon} at the time of steady state operation are stored in advance in the ROM 34 in the form shown in equation (43). By doing this, it is possible to represent the two first-order function equations by the three parameters \underline{e} , \underline{d} , and \underline{r} . That is, it is possible to reduce the number of parameters required for representing the two first-order function equations. The parameters \underline{e} , \underline{d} , and \underline{r} of equation (43) are calculated based on the following equation:

$$\begin{aligned} e_1 &= e_1' \cdot k_{tha} \\ e_2 &= e_2' \cdot k_{tha} \\ d &= d' \cdot k_{tha} \cdot k_{pa} \\ r &= r' \cdot k_{tha} \cdot k_{pa} \end{aligned}$$

Here, $e1^*$ and $e2^*$ are the gradients when the engine ambient environmental conditions are predetermined standard environmental conditions, and d^* and r^* are the intake pipe pressure and engine load factor, respectively, at the connection point when the engine ambient environmental conditions are predetermined standard environmental conditions. It is possible to use any conditions as the standard environmental conditions, but in the present embodiment, standard conditions (1 atmosphere and 25°C) are used as the standard environmental conditions.

[0198] On the other hand, k_{tha} represents the atmospheric temperature correction coefficient, while k_{pa} represents the atmospheric pressure correction coefficient. The atmospheric temperature correction coefficient k_{tha} is for correcting the parameters $e1'$, $e2'$, d' , and r' at the standard environmental conditions in accordance with the actual atmospheric temperature detected by the atmospheric temperature sensor 44. When there is no need for correction, it is made 1.0. Further, the atmospheric pressure correction coefficient k_{pa} is for correcting the parameters d' and r' in the standard environmental conditions in accordance with the actual atmospheric pressure detected by the atmospheric pressure sensor 45. When there is no need for correction, it is made 1.0.

[0199] Therefore, considering the fact that the atmospheric temperature correction coefficient k_{tha} and the atmospheric pressure correction coefficient k_{pa} are representative values representing the actual engine ambient environmental conditions, the parameters $e1'$, $e2'$, d' , and r' in the standard environmental conditions are corrected based on the representative values representing the actual engine ambient environmental conditions. Alternatively, there is also the viewpoint of correcting the engine load factor K_{Lon} in the standard environmental conditions based on the representative

values representing the actual engine ambient environmental conditions.

[0200] On the other hand, considering the fact that the opening sectional area A_e of the EGR control valve 22 at equation (17) depends on the EGR opening degree θ_e and the engine charging efficiency depends on the engine speed NE, in the present embodiment, the parameters e' ($e1'$, $e2'$), d' , and r' are set in accordance with the EGR opening degree θ_e and/or the engine speed NE.

[0201] Explaining this in more detail, as shown in FIG. 35A, the gradient $e1'$ becomes larger as the engine speed NE becomes higher when the engine speed NE is low, becomes smaller as the engine speed NE becomes higher when the engine speed NE is high, and becomes larger as the EGR opening degree θ_e becomes larger. Further, as shown in FIG. 35B, the gradient $e2'$ becomes larger as the engine speed NE becomes higher when the engine speed NE is low, becomes smaller as the engine speed NE becomes higher when the engine speed NE is high, and becomes larger as the EGR opening degree θ_e becomes larger. Further, the gradients $e1'$ and $e2'$ are found in advance by experiments and are stored in advance in the ROM 34 in the form of maps as shown in FIG. 35C and FIG. 35D as functions of the engine speed NE and EGR opening degree θ_e .

[0202] On the other hand, the intake pipe pressure d' at the connection point CP, as shown in FIG. 36, becomes smaller as the engine speed becomes higher. The intake pipe pressure d' at the connection point CP is found in advance by experiments and is stored in advance in the ROM 34 in the form of a map shown in FIG. 36 as a function of the engine speed NE.

[0203] Further, the engine load factor r' at the connection point CP, as shown in FIG. 37A, becomes larger as the engine speed NE becomes higher when the engine

speed NE is low, becomes smaller as the engine speed NE becomes higher when the engine speed NE is high, and becomes smaller as the EGR opening degree θ_e becomes larger. The engine load factor r^* at the connection point CP is also found in advance by experiments and stored in advance in the ROM 34 in the form of a map as shown in FIG. 37B as a function of the engine speed NE and the EGR opening degree θ_e .

[0204] Therefore, speaking generally, two first-order function equations of the intake pipe pressure P_m representing the amount of cylinder charging fresh air M_{c-air} or the engine load factor KLon at the time of steady state operation are found in advance and stored for a plurality of different EGR opening degrees θ_e . Further, two first-order function equations of the intake pipe pressure P_m representing the amount of cylinder charging fresh air M_{c-air} or the engine load factor KLon at the time of steady state operation are found in advance and stored for a plurality of different engine speeds NE.

[0205] FIG. 38 shows an example of two first-order function equations of the intake pipe pressure P_m showing the engine load factor KLon at the time of steady state operation at a constant engine speed NE and various EGR opening degrees θ_e . Note that the broken line in FIG. 38 shows the engine load factor KLoFF when the EGR gas is not being supplied, that is, when the EGR opening degree θ_e is zero.

[0206] On the other hand, as explained above, it is possible to represent the engine load factor KLoFF when the EGR gas is not being supplied by a first-order function equation of the intake pipe pressure P_m . FIG. 39 shows an example of two first-order function equations of the intake pipe pressure P_m representing the engine load factor KLoFF at the time of steady state operation (for example, when the engine speed NE is being held

constant). In this embodiment, as shown in FIG. 39, the engine load factor K_{Loff} is represented by two first-order function equations of the intake pipe pressure P_m with different gradients and connected at the connection point CP. That is, when the intake pipe pressure P_m is low, the engine load factor K_{Loff} is represented by a first-order function equation of the gradient a_1 , while when the intake pipe pressure P_m is high, the engine load factor K_{Loff} is represented by a first-order function equation of the gradient a_2 .

[0207] Here, if making the gradients of the two first-order function equations a_1 and a_2 and making the intake pipe pressure and engine load factor at the connection point CP \underline{d} and \underline{c} , it is possible to represent the two first-order function equations by the following equations:

$$K_{Loff} = a_1 \cdot (P_m - d) + c \quad \dots P_m \leq d$$

$$K_{Loff} = a_2 \cdot (P_m - d) + c \quad \dots P_m > d$$

If representing these all together, the following equation (44) results:

$$K_{Loff} = a \cdot (P_m - d) + c \quad (44)$$

$$a = a_1 \quad \dots P_m \leq d$$

$$a = a_2 \quad \dots P_m > d$$

[0208] In the present embodiment, the two first-order function equations of the intake pipe pressure P_m representing the engine load factor K_{Loff} at the time of steady state operation are stored in advance in the ROM 34 in the form shown in equation (44). Note that the intake pipe pressure \underline{d} at the connection point CP in this case is the same as the intake pipe pressure \underline{d} at the connection point CP for the above-mentioned engine load factor K_{Lon} . Therefore, it is possible to further reduce the number of parameters. Of course, it is also possible to make the intake pipe pressures at the connection points CP differ. The parameters \underline{a} and \underline{d} of this equation (44) are calculated based on the following equations:

$$a1=a1' \cdot ktha$$

$$a2=a2' \cdot ktha$$

$$c=c' \cdot ktha \cdot kpa$$

Here, $a1^*$ and $a2^*$ are the gradients when the engine
5 ambient environmental conditions are the above-mentioned
standard environmental conditions, that is, the standard
conditions, and c^* is the engine load factor when the
engine ambient environmental conditions are the above-
mentioned standard environmental conditions, that is, the
10 standard conditions.

[0209] Therefore, if considering that the atmospheric
temperature correction coefficient $ktha$ and the
atmospheric pressure correction coefficient kpa are
representative values representing the actual engine
15 ambient environmental conditions, the parameters $a1'$,
 $a2'$, and c' at the standard environmental conditions are
corrected based on the representative values representing
the actual engine ambient environmental conditions.
Alternatively, there is also the viewpoint of correcting
20 the engine load factor $KLoff$ at the standard
environmental conditions based on the representative
values representing the actual engine ambient
environmental conditions.

[0210] On the other hand, in the present embodiment,
25 the parameters a' ($a1'$, $a2'$) and c' are set in accordance
with the engine speed NE considering the fact that the
engine charging efficiency depends on the engine speed
 NE .

[0211] Explaining this more concretely, the gradient
30 $a1'$, as shown in FIG. 40A, becomes larger as the engine
speed NE becomes higher when the engine speed NE is low
and becomes smaller as the engine speed NE becomes higher
when the engine speed NE is high. Further, the gradient
 $a2'$, as shown in FIG. 40B, becomes larger as the engine
35 speed NE becomes higher when the engine speed NE is low
and becomes smaller as the engine speed becomes higher
when the engine speed NE is high. These gradients $a1'$ and

a_2^* are found in advance by experiments and are stored in advance in the ROM 34 in the form of the map shown in FIG. 40A and FIG. 40B as a function of the engine speed NE.

5 [0212] Further, the engine load factor c^* at the connection point CP, as shown in FIG. 41, becomes larger as the engine speed NE becomes higher when the engine speed NE is low and becomes smaller as the engine speed becomes higher when the engine speed NE is high. The
10 engine load factor c^* at the connection point CP is also found in advance by experiments and stored in advance in the ROM 34 in the form of a map shown in FIG. 41 as a function of the engine speed NE.

[0213] Therefore, generally speaking, two first-order
15 function equations of the intake pipe pressure P_m representing the amount of cylinder charging fresh air M_{c-air} or the engine load factor K_{Loff} at the time of steady state operation are found in advance and stored for a plurality of different engine speeds NE. This being
20 the case, if detecting the intake pipe pressure P_m by for example the pressure sensor 39, it is possible to accurately and simply find the engine load factor K_{Lon} or K_{Loff} using the above equation (43) or (44) from the detected intake pipe pressure P_m and therefore possible
25 to make the air-fuel ratio accurately and simply match the target air-fuel ratio.

[0214] Representing the engine load factors K_{Lon} and K_{Loff} by the first-order function equations of the intake
pipe pressure P_m in this way means that it is possible to
30 prepare maps representing the relationships between the engine load factors K_{Lon} and K_{Loff} and the intake pipe pressure P_m . Therefore, first, the labor in preparing the maps is eliminated. Further, it means there is no need to solve complicated differential equations etc. Therefore,
35 the calculation load of the CPU 35 can be lightened.

[0215] As will be understood with reference to equation (25), however, the engine load factor K_L can be

said to represent the amount of cylinder charging fresh air M_{c-air} . Here, if considering the fact that only fresh air is charged in a cylinder when EGR gas is not being supplied, the engine load factor K_{Loff} when EGR gas is not being supplied can be considered to represent the total amount of the gas charged in the cylinder at this time, that is, the amount of cylinder charging gas M_c at this time.

[0216] Here, if considering the fact that the amount of cylinder charging gas M_c does not change between when the EGR gas is being supplied and is not being supplied, the engine load factor K_{Loff} when the EGR gas is not being supplied can be said to represent not only the amount of cylinder charging gas M_c when the EGR gas is not being supplied, but also the amount of cylinder charging gas M_c when the EGR gas is being supplied.

[0217] On the other hand, the fact that the amount of cylinder charging fresh air M_{c-air} at the time of steady state operation and the time when the EGR gas is being supplied is represented by the engine load factor K_{Lon} was explained above. Therefore, the result ΔKL ($=K_{Loff}-K_{Lon}$) obtained by subtracting the engine load factor K_{Lon} when the EGR gas is being supplied from the engine load factor K_{Loff} when the EGR gas is not being supplied represents the amount of cylinder charging EGR gas M_{c-egr} at the time of steady state operation.

[0218] Explaining this more specifically, for example, as shown in FIG. 42, when $P_m=P_{m1}$, $K_{Loff}=K_{Loff1}$ and $K_{Lon}=K_{Lon1}$, the amount of cylinder charging EGR gas M_{c-egr} at the time of steady state operation is represented by ΔKL ($=K_{Loff1}-K_{Lon1}$).

[0219] Therefore, the amount of cylinder charging EGR gas M_{c-egr} at the time of steady state operation can be calculated based on the following equation (45):

$$M_{c-egr} = kegr1 \cdot \Delta KL \dots (45)$$

Here, $kegr1$ represents the conversion coefficient from

the engine load factor KL to the amount of cylinder charging EGR gas M_{c-egr} , while KL_{off} and KL_{on} represent the engine load factor calculated from the above equations (43) and (44).

5 [0220] Therefore, if calculating the intake pipe pressure P_m by the above calculation equation or detecting it by a pressure sensor, it is possible to accurately and simply find the amount of cylinder charging EGR gas M_{c-egr} at the time of steady state operation from the intake pipe pressure P_m using the
10 above equation (45).

[0221] As explained above, however, at the time of steady state operation, the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} and the amount of cylinder intake EGR gas
15 m_{c-egr} are equal, and the amount of cylinder charging EGR gas M_{c-egr} is represented by the product of the amount of cylinder intake EGR gas m_{c-egr} and $\Delta T(\text{sec})$ ($M_{c-egr} = m_{c-egr} \cdot \Delta T$). Therefore, the above difference ΔKL represents the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} at the time of
20 steady state operation.

[0222] In the present embodiment, the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} at the time of steady state operation is calculated based on the following equation (46):

25
$$m_{egr} = kegr2 \cdot \Delta KL \dots (46)$$

Here, $kegr2$ represents the conversion coefficient from the engine load factor KL to the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} , while KL_{off} and KL_{on} represent the engine load factors calculated from the above
30 equations (43) and (44).

[0223] As explained up until now, the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} at the time of steady state operation was calculated using the above equation (46). However, it is also possible to calculate the EGR
35 control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} at the time of transient operation using this equation (46). That is,

the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} is greatly dependent on the pressure difference upstream and downstream of the EGR control valve 22, that is, the difference between the exhaust pressure P_e and the intake pipe pressure P_m . If considering the fact that the exhaust pressure P_e and the exhaust temperature T_e upstream of the EGR control valve 22 at the time of transient operation are not that different from the exhaust pressure P_e and exhaust temperature T_e at the time of steady state operation, whether the steady state operation or transient operation, if the intake pipe pressure P_m is determined, the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} is determined.

[0224] Therefore, it is possible to accurately and simply find the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} at the time of steady state operation and transient operation from the intake pipe pressure P_m using the above equation (46). In this case, the amount of cylinder charging EGR gas M_{c-egr} at the time of steady state operation can be calculated from the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} at the time of steady state operation and can be calculated from the difference ΔKL using the above equation (45).

[0225] FIG. 43 shows a routine for calculating the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} in the above embodiment. This routine is executed by interruption every predetermined set time.

[0226] Referring to FIG. 43, first, at step 100, the intake pipe pressure P_m , the engine speed NE , and the EGR opening degree θ_e are read in. Next, at step 101, the atmospheric temperature correction coefficient k_{tha} and the atmospheric pressure correction coefficient k_{pa} are calculated. Next, at step 102, the intake pipe pressure d^* and the engine load factors c^* and r^* at the connection point CP under the standard environmental conditions are calculated from the maps of FIG. 36, FIG. 37B, and FIG.

41. Next, at step 103, the parameters \underline{d} , \underline{c} , and \underline{r} are calculated by correcting d' , c' , and r' by k_{tha} and k_{pa} . Next, at step 104, it is judged if the detected intake pipe pressure P_m is the intake pipe pressure \underline{d} at the connection point or less. When $P_m \leq \underline{d}$, next, the routine proceeds to step 105, where $a1'$ and $e1'$ are calculated from the maps of FIG. 35C and FIG. 40A. Next, at step 106, the gradients a' and e' are made $a1'$ and $e1'$. Next, the routine proceeds to step 109. As opposed to this, when $P_m > \underline{d}$, next the routine proceeds to step 107, where $a2'$ and $e2'$ are calculated from the maps of FIG. 35D and FIG. 40B. Next, at step 108, the gradients a' and e' are made $a2'$ and $e2'$. Next, the routine proceeds to step 109.

[0227] At step 109, by correcting a^* and e^* by k_{tha} and k_{pa} , the parameters \underline{a} and \underline{e} are calculated. Next, at step 110, the engine load factor KL_{off} is calculated based on equation (44) ($KL_{off} = a \cdot (P_m - \underline{d}) + c$). Next, at step 111, the engine load factor KL_{on} is calculated based on equation (43) ($KL_{on} = e \cdot (P_m - \underline{d}) + r$). Next, at step 112, the difference ΔKL is calculated ($\Delta KL = KL_{off} - KL_{on}$). Next, at step 113, the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} is calculated based on equation (45) ($m_{egr} = k_{egr2} \cdot \Delta KL$).

[0228] In the above embodiment, the engine load factors KL_{off} and KL_{on} are represented by two first-order function equations each. However, it is also possible to represent the engine load factors KL_{off} and KL_{on} by \underline{n} number of m -order function equations each ($n, m = 1, 2, \dots$).

[0229] Therefore, in the above embodiment, the amount of cylinder charging fresh air or engine load factor KL_{off} when in the steady state operation and the EGR gas is not being supplied is represented by a first function equation defined as the function equation of the intake pipe pressure P_m and the first function equation is found in advance and stored, the amount of cylinder charging fresh air or engine load factor KL_{on} when in the steady state operation and the EGR gas is being supplied is

represented by a second function equation defined as the function equation of the intake pipe pressure P_m and the second function equation is found in advance and stored, the amounts of cylinder charging fresh air or engine load factors K_{Loff} and K_{Lon} are calculated from the found intake pipe pressure P_m using the first function equation and second function equation, the difference ΔKL of the calculated amounts of cylinder charging fresh air or of the engine load factors K_{Loff} and K_{Lon} is calculated, and the amount of EGR control valve passage gas m_{egr} is calculated based on the difference ΔKL .

[0230] Further, generally speaking, the difference ΔKL between the amount of cylinder charging fresh air or engine load factor K_{Loff} when in the steady state operation and the EGR gas is not being supplied and the amount of cylinder charging fresh air or engine load factor K_{Lon} when in the steady state operation and the EGR gas is being supplied is represented by a function equation of the intake pipe pressure P_m and the function equation is found in advance and stored, the difference ΔKL is calculated from the found intake pipe pressure P_m using the function equation, and the amount of EGR control valve passage gas m_{egr} at the steady state operation and transient operation and the amount of cylinder charging EGR gas M_{c-egr} at the steady state operation are calculated based on the difference ΔKL .

[0231] Next, another embodiment of the present invention will be explained. The above-mentioned difference ΔKL can be represented as shown by the following equation (47) using equations (44) and (43) representing the K_{Loff} and K_{Lon} :

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta KL &= K_{Loff} - K_{Lon} \\ &= (a - e) \cdot (P_m - d) + (c - r) \dots (47)\end{aligned}$$

Here, if replacing $(a - e)$ with h and $(c - r)$ with i , equation (47) becomes as follows:

$$\Delta KL = h \cdot (P_m - d) + i \quad (48)$$

$$h = h1 \quad \dots P_m \leq d$$

$$h = h2 \quad \dots P_m > d$$

[0232] Therefore, the difference ΔKL , as shown in FIG. 44, is represented by two first-order function equations of the intake pipe pressure P_m with different gradients and connected at the connection point CP. That is, the difference ΔKL is represented by a first-order function equation of the gradient $h1$ when the intake pipe pressure P_m is small, while the difference ΔKL is represented by a first-order function equation of the gradient $h2$ when the intake pipe pressure P_m is high.

[0233] In the present embodiment, two first-order function equations of the intake pipe pressure P_m representing the difference ΔKL are stored in advance in the ROM 34 in the form shown in equation (48). By doing this, the number of parameters can be further reduced. The parameters h , d , and i in equation (48) are calculated based on the following equations:

$$\begin{aligned} h1 &= h1' \cdot ktha \\ h2 &= h2' \cdot ktha \\ i &= i' \cdot ktha \cdot kpa \end{aligned}$$

Here, $h1'$ and $h2'$ are the gradients when the engine ambient environmental conditions are the standard environmental conditions and i' is the difference at the connection point CP when the engine ambient environmental conditions are the standard environmental conditions. These $h1'$, $h2'$, and i' are found in advance by experiments and are stored in advance in the ROM 34 in the form of maps as shown in FIG. 45A, FIG. 45B, and FIG. 45C as functions of the engine speed NE and the EGR opening degree θ_e . Note that the parameter d is similar to that in the above embodiment, so its explanation will be omitted.

[0234] Therefore, generally speaking, two first-order

function equations of the intake pipe pressure P_m representing the difference ΔKL are found in advance and stored for a plurality of different EGR opening degrees θ_e . Further, two first-order function equations of the intake pipe pressure P_m representing the difference ΔKL are found in advance and stored for a plurality of different engine speeds NE .

[0235] FIG. 46 shows the routine for calculation of the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} in another embodiment of the present invention explained above. This routine is executed by interruption every predetermined set time.

[0236] Referring to FIG. 46, first, at step 120, the intake pipe pressure P_m , the engine speed NE , and the EGR opening degree θ_e are read in. Next, at step 121, the atmospheric temperature correction coefficient k_{tha} and the atmospheric pressure correction coefficient k_{pa} are calculated. Next, at step 122, the intake pipe pressure d^* and the difference i^* at the connection point CP under standard environmental conditions are calculated from the maps of FIG. 36 and FIG. 45C. Next, at step 123, d^* and i^* are corrected by k_{tha} and k_{pa} to calculate the parameters \underline{d} and \underline{i} . Next, at step 124, it is judged if the detected intake pipe pressure P_m is the intake pipe pressure \underline{d} at the connection point or less. When $P_m \leq \underline{d}$, the routine next proceeds to step 125, where $h1^*$ is calculated from the map of FIG. 45A. Next, at step 126, the gradient h^* is made $h1^*$. Next, the routine proceeds to step 129. As opposed to this, when $P_m > \underline{d}$, next, the routine proceeds to step 127, where $h2^*$ is calculated from the map of FIG. 45B. Next, at step 128, the gradient h^* is made $h2^*$. Next, the routine proceeds to step 129.

[0237] At step 129, by correcting h^* by k_{tha} and k_{pa} , the parameter h is calculated. Next, at step 130, the difference ΔKL is calculated based on equation (48)

($\Delta KL = h \cdot (P_m - d) + i$). Next, at step 131, the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} is calculated based on equation (46) ($m_{egr} = k_{egr2} \cdot \Delta KL$). Here, the EGR opening degree θ_e will be simply explained. As explained above, the EGR opening degree is represented by the number of steps STP of the step motor of the EGR control valve 22. That is, if the number of steps becomes zero, the EGR control valve 22 closes. If the number of steps STP becomes greater, the EGR opening degree also becomes larger.

[0238] However, in actuality, even if the number of steps STP becomes large from zero as shown in FIG. 47, the EGR control valve 22 will not immediately open. If the number of steps STP exceeds STP1, the EGR control valve 22 finally opens. Therefore, it is necessary to represent the EGR opening degree θ_e by the result (STP-STP1) of the number of steps STP minus exactly STP1. Further, the EGR control valve 22 usually includes manufacturing error, so the actual EGR opening degree θ_e for the number of steps STP is liable to become off from the normal opening degree. Therefore, in the internal combustion engine shown in FIG. 1, a correction coefficient kg for making the actual EGR opening degree match with the normal opening degree is found and that correction coefficient kg is added to the number of steps STP.

[0239] Therefore, the EGR opening degree θ_e is represented by the following equation:

$$\theta_e = STP - STP0 + kg$$

where, STP0 is the number of steps at which the EGR control valve 22 starts to open in a center part of the tolerance of the drawings. In this embodiment, the thus calculated EGR opening degree θ_e is used as an argument of the map.

[0240] However, it is possible to further correct the

EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} calculated in the above way or the amount of cylinder charging EGR gas M_{c-egr} at the time of steady state operation considering the exhaust temperature T_e .

- 5 [0241] Explaining the case of correcting the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} , the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} in this case is represented for example by the following equation:

$$m_{egr} = m_{egr} \cdot kwu \cdot krtd \cdot kinc$$

- 10 Here, kwu represents the warmup correction coefficient, $krtd$ the retardation correction coefficient, and $kinc$ the increase correction coefficient.

- [0242] The warmup correction coefficient kwu is for correcting the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} at the time of engine warmup operation. That is, at 15 the time of warmup operation, the exhaust temperature T_e becomes lower compared with after completion of warmup operation. The EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} (g/sec) becomes greater by that amount. The EGR 20 control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} calculated using equations (43) and (44) or equation (48) is the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate after the end of warmup operation. It is necessary to correct this.

- [0243] The warmup correction coefficient kwu , as shown 25 in FIG. 48A, becomes smaller as the engine cooling water temperature THW representing the extent of warmup becomes higher and is held at 1.0 when above the temperature TWU representing completion of warmup. The warmup correction coefficient kwu is stored in advance in the ROM 34 in the 30 form of the map shown in FIG. 48A. On the other hand, the retardation correction coefficient $krtd$ corrects the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} when the ignition timing is retarded. That is, when the ignition timing is retarded, the exhaust temperature T_e becomes higher 35 compared with when the ignition timing is not retarded. The EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} becomes smaller by exactly that amount.

[0244] The retardation correction coefficient k_{rtd} , as shown in FIG. 48B, is 1.0 when the retardation RTD is zero and becomes smaller as the retardation RTD becomes larger. This retardation correction coefficient k_{rtd} is stored in the ROM 34 in advance in the form of a map as shown in FIG. 48B.

[0245] Further, the increase correction coefficient k_{inc} is for correcting the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} when the fuel injection amount is increased. That is, when the fuel injection amount is increased, the exhaust temperature T_e becomes lower compared with when the fuel injection amount is not increased. The EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} becomes larger by exactly that amount. The increase correction coefficient k_{inc} , as shown in FIG. 48C, is 1.0 when the increase correction F_{inc} is zero and becomes larger as the increase correction F_{inc} becomes larger. This increase correction coefficient k_{inc} is stored in advance in the ROM 34 in the form of the map shown in FIG. 48C. By doing this, it is possible to find the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} by a further higher precision.

[0246] Note that it is also possible to find the exhaust temperature T_e when the ignition timing is not being retarded or the fuel injection amount is not being increased in advance as a function of the engine operating state (for example, the engine speed NE and required load L), detect or estimate the actual exhaust temperature T_e , and correct the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} based on the difference between the exhaust temperature T_e when the ignition timing is not being retarded or the fuel injection amount is not being increased and the actual exhaust temperature T_e . The same is true for the amount of cylinder charging EGR gas M_{c-egr} at the time of steady state operation, so the explanation will be omitted.

[0247] In the internal combustion engine shown in FIG.

1, as explained above, the EGR passage 21 downstream of the EGR control valve 22 is divided and connected to the intake tubes 12 of the different cylinders. In this configuration, to suppress fluctuations in the amount of EGR gas fed to the cylinders, as shown in FIG. 49, it is possible to provide a constriction 23 in the EGR passage 21 downstream of the EGR control valve 22.

[0248] In this case, first, at the time of steady state operation, the constriction passage gas flow rate m_{chk} (g/sec) defined as the flow rate of the EGR gas passing through the constriction 23 matches with the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} . Therefore, as will be understood from the explanation up until now, it is possible to calculate the constriction passage gas flow rate m_{chk} at the time of steady state operation based on the difference ΔKL . Note that the constriction passage gas flow rate m_{chk} represents the flow rate of the EGR gas flowing into the intake pipe portion.

[0249] On the other hand, the constriction passage gas flow rate m_{chk} does not necessarily match with the EGR control valve passage gas flow rate m_{egr} at the time of transient operation. However, when the volume of the EGR passage 21 from the EGR control valve 22 to the constriction 23 is relatively small, m_{chk} generally matches with m_{egr} . Therefore, when the volume of the EGR passage 21 from the EGR control valve 22 to the constriction 23 is relatively small, whether the steady state operation or the transient operation, it is possible to calculate the constriction passage gas flow rate m_{chk} based on the difference ΔKL .

[0250] In the present embodiment explained above, for example, the engine load factors KL_{on} and KL_{off} or the difference ΔKL are calculated from the intake pipe pressure P_m estimated using a calculation model or intake pipe pressure P_m detected by the pressure sensor 39. However, for example, it is also possible to estimate the

intake pipe pressure P_m based on the throttle opening degree or the output of the air-flow meter arranged in the intake duct 14 upstream of the throttle valve 17 and calculate the engine load factor KL from the estimated
5 intake pipe pressure P_m . Here, when estimating the intake pipe pressure P_m based on the throttle opening degree, the intake pipe pressure P_m is found in advance as a function of the throttle opening degree θ_t , the engine speed NE , and the EGR opening degree θ_e . This is stored
10 in the form of a map.

[0251] On the other hand, when estimating the intake pipe pressure P_m based on the output of the air-flow meter, due to the detection precision etc. of the air-flow meter, the estimated intake pipe pressure P_m is
15 liable to exceed the maximum pressure P_{max} which the intake pipe pressure P_m can take. In the region where $P_m > P_{max}$, however, as shown in FIG. 50B, sometimes the engine load factor KL_{on} expressed by the above equation (43) becomes larger than even the engine load factor
20 KL_{off} expressed by equation (44). In this case, the difference ΔKL becomes a negative value. That is, if the estimated intake pipe pressure P_m exceeds the maximum pressure P_{max} , the difference ΔKL is liable to no longer be able to be accurately calculated.

[0252] Therefore, as shown in FIG. 50A, in the region where $P_m > P_{max}$, if holding the difference ΔKL at a constant value ΔKLC , it is possible to eliminate such
inconveniences. That is, when the estimated intake pipe pressure P_m exceeds the maximum pressure P_{max} , it is
30 possible to continue to accurately calculate the difference ΔKL .

[0253] However, as shown in FIG. 51A and FIG. 51B, there is known an internal combustion engine wherein a pair of intake passages 13a and 13b separated by a
35 partition 24 are provided inside the intake tube 13

corresponding to each cylinder 5 and a swirl control valve 25 is arranged inside the intake passage 13b.

[0254] The swirl control valve 25 is for example closed at the time of engine low load operation and is open at the time of engine high load operation. As shown in FIG. 51A, when the swirl control valve 25 is open, the gas flows from the two intake passages 13a and 13b to the inside of the cylinder 5 and therefore sufficient fresh air is fed inside the cylinder 5. On the other hand, when the swirl control valve 25 is closed, gas from only the intake passage 13a flows into the cylinder 5 and therefore a swirl is formed around the cylinder axis inside the cylinder 5.

[0255] Here, if the swirl control valve 25 is closed, as explained above, the gas flows from only the intake passage 13a into the cylinder 5, so the volume of the channel from the EGR control valve 22 to the cylinder 5 becomes smaller compared with when the swirl control valve 25 is open. Further, when the swirl control valve 25 is closed, the flow rate of the gas near the outlet of the EGR passage 21 becomes faster. In particular, as shown in FIG. 51A and FIG. 51B, when the EGR passage 21 is connected to the intake passage 13a in the region separated by the partition 24, the rise in the gas flow rate near the outlet of the EGR passage 21 when the swirl control valve 25 is closed is large.

[0256] In this way, when the swirl control valve 25 is closed, the volume of the channel from the EGR control valve 22 to the cylinder 5 becomes smaller compared with the case where the swirl control valve 25 is open and the flow rate of the gas near the outlet of the EGR passage 21 becomes faster, so the time taken from when the exhaust gas passes through the EGR control valve 22 to when it reaches the cylinder 5 becomes shorter and the diffusion of the exhaust gas in the EGR passage 21 and intake passage 13a downstream from the EGR control valve 22 is promoted. That is, if the swirl control valve 25 is

closed, the above dead time $Td2$ becomes shorter and the above time constant $\tau2$ becomes smaller compared with when the swirl control valve 25 is open.

[0257] Therefore, when an internal combustion engine is provided with a swirl control valve 25, in the above embodiments, maps of the dead time $Td2$ and the time constant $\tau2$ using the engine speed NE as a variable are found by experiments etc. based on the state where the swirl control valve 25 is open and stored in the ROM 34. When the swirl control valve 25 is open, the dead time $Td2$ and time constant $\tau2$ found from the maps based on the engine speed NE are used to calculate the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate $m_{egr-egr}$.

[0258] The maps of the dead time $Td2$ and time constant $\tau2$ here take the forms such as shown in FIG. 17A and FIG. 17B. On the other hand, when the swirl control valve 25 is closed, the dead time $Td2$ and the time constant $\tau2$ are found from the maps shown in FIG. 17A and FIG. 17B based on the engine speed NE , and the dead time $Td2$ and time constant $\tau2$ calculated by multiplying the dead time $Td2$ and time constant $\tau2$ with a correction coefficient smaller than 1.0 are used to calculate the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate $m_{egr-egr}$. According to this, even when the internal combustion engine is provided with a swirl control valve, it is possible to calculate the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate more accurately.

[0259] Note that this technical concept, explained more generally, may also be equally applied to an internal combustion engine designed so that the volume of the passage from the EGR control valve to the intake valve can be changed in accordance with the engine operating state or the channel sectional area of the intake passage can be changed in accordance with the engine operating state so that the gas flow rate near the outlet of the EGR passage opening to the intake passage

can be changed.

[0260] However, if the swirl control valve is closed in an internal combustion engine provided with a swirl control valve such as shown in FIG. 51A and FIG. 51B, as explained above, the volume of the channel from the EGR control valve to the cylinder becomes smaller compared with the case where the swirl control valve is open and the flow rate of the gas near the outlet of the EGR passage becomes faster, so the amount of EGR gas charged in the cylinder becomes greater. That is, when the swirl control valve is closed, the amount of EGR gas charged in the cylinder becomes greater, so conversely the amount of fresh air charged in the cylinder becomes smaller and therefore the engine load factor becomes smaller.

[0261] Therefore, if the internal combustion engine is provided with a swirl control valve, when utilizing the above equation (43) to calculate the engine load factor KL_{on} for when the EGR gas is fed into the cylinder, it is preferable to take into consideration the fact that the amount of EGR gas charged into the cylinder differs depending on whether the swirl control valve is open or closed.

[0262] Therefore, when the internal combustion engine is provided with a swirl control valve 25, in the above embodiments, maps for setting the parameters e (e_1^* , e_2^*), d^* , r^* used in equation (43) are found by experiments etc. based on the state where the swirl control valve 25 is open and stored in the ROM 34. When the swirl control valve 25 is open, the parameters e (e_1^* , e_2^*), d^* , r^* are found from these maps and the engine load factor KL_{on} is calculated from equation (43) based on these parameters.

[0263] On the other hand, when the swirl control valve 25 is closed, the parameters e (e_1^* , e_2^*), d^* , r^* are found from the above map and the engine load factor KL_{on} is calculated from equation (43) based on the parameter calculated by multiplying at least one of these

parameters with a correction coefficient larger than 1.0. According to this, even if the internal combustion engine is provided with a swirl control valve, it is possible to more accurately calculate the engine load factor K_{Lon} .

5 Note that this technical concept, explained more generally, may also be equally applied to an internal combustion engine designed so that the volume of the passage from the EGR control valve to the intake valve can be changed in accordance with the engine operating state or the channel sectional area of the intake passage can be changed in accordance with the engine operating state so that the gas flow rate near the outlet of the EGR passage opening to the intake passage can be changed.

10 [0264] Further, if directly calculating the cylinder inflow fresh air flow rate rather than calculating the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate, when the swirl control valve is closed and the cylinder inflow exhaust gas flow rate becomes greater, it is sufficient to correct the cylinder inflow fresh air flow rate to become small faster compared with the case where the swirl control valve is open. Further, in the above equations (43) and (44), the parameter d' is made the value found from the same map in equations (43) and (44) in the above embodiments, but it is also possible to make the parameter d' used in equation (43) and the parameter d' used in equation (44) values found from different maps. Note that the amount is obtained by multiplying the flow rate with the time, so the flow rate in the above embodiments substantially also means the amount.

25 [0265] Further, the present invention is particularly advantageous if applied to an internal combustion engine having an EGR passage connected to an intake tube (or intake port) so that the exhaust gas fed to the intake tube through the EGR passage accumulates there.

30 [0266] While the invention has been described with reference to specific embodiments chosen for purpose of illustration, it should be apparent that numerous

modifications could be made thereto by those skilled in the art without departing from the basic concept and scope of the invention.

CLAIMS

1. A cylinder inflow exhaust gas amount calculation system of an internal combustion engine provided with an intake passage, an exhaust passage, an exhaust gas recirculation passage connecting the intake passage and exhaust passage, and an exhaust gas flow rate control valve arranged in the exhaust gas recirculation passage for controlling the flow rate of the exhaust gas flowing in the exhaust gas recirculation passage, and the system calculating an amount of cylinder inflow exhaust gas defined as an amount of exhaust gas flowing into a cylinder, utilizing an amount of passage exhaust gas defined as an amount of exhaust gas passing through the exhaust gas flow rate control valve, wherein

an amount of cylinder inflow exhaust gas is calculated considering the dead time corresponding to the time taken until the exhaust gas passing through said exhaust gas flow rate control valve reaches the cylinder and a tracking lag of a change in the amount of cylinder inflow exhaust gas with respect to a change in said amount of passage exhaust gas.

2. A cylinder inflow exhaust gas calculation system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said tracking lag is a first-order lag and a time constant of said first-order lag and said dead time are changed in accordance with an engine speed.

3. A cylinder inflow exhaust gas calculation system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the internal combustion engine is provided with a plurality of cylinders, a ratio of an actual amount of cylinder inflow exhaust gas in each cylinder with respect to said calculated amount of cylinder inflow exhaust gas is found in advance as a distribution constant, and said distribution constant is multiplied with said calculated amount of cylinder inflow exhaust gas to calculate the amount of cylinder inflow exhaust gas in each cylinder.

4. A cylinder inflow exhaust gas calculation

system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the internal combustion engine is provided with a plurality of cylinders, and said tracking lag and dead time are set for each cylinder.

5 5. A cylinder inflow exhaust gas calculation system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the internal engine is provided with an intake valve with a variable closing timing, and the setting of said tracking lag and the setting of said dead time are changed in accordance
10 with a closing time of the intake valve.

 6. A cylinder inflow exhaust gas amount calculation system as set forth in claim 1, wherein a flow rate of gas near an opening of an exhaust gas recirculation passage opening to the intake passage can
15 be changed by one of a change of passage volume from the exhaust gas flow rate control valve to the intake valve in accordance with an engine operating state and a change of a channel sectional area of the intake passage in
 accordance with the engine operating state, and the
20 setting of the tracking lag and the setting of the dead time are changed in accordance with one of said passage volume and said flow rate of gas.

 7. A cylinder inflow exhaust gas amount calculation system as set forth in claim 1, wherein a
25 flow rate of gas near an opening of an exhaust gas recirculation passage opening to the intake passage can be changed by one of a change of passage volume from said exhaust gas flow rate control valve to said intake valve
 in accordance with an engine operating state and a change
30 of a channel sectional area of said intake passage in accordance with the engine operating state, a function equation expressing the amount of passage exhaust gas by a function of the pressure in the intake passage, and a parameter other than the pressure in said intake passage
35 is found and stored in advance, an amount of passage exhaust gas is calculated from the pressure in the intake passage utilizing the function equation, and the

parameter other than the pressure in the intake passage is changed in accordance with one of said passage volume and said flow rate of gas.

5 8. A cylinder inflow exhaust gas amount calculation system of an internal combustion engine provided with an intake passage, an exhaust passage, an exhaust gas recirculation passage connecting the intake passage and exhaust passage, and an exhaust gas flow rate control valve arranged in the exhaust gas recirculation
10 passage for controlling the flow rate of the exhaust gas flowing in the exhaust gas recirculation passage, the system calculating an amount of passage exhaust gas defined as an amount of exhaust gas passing through an exhaust gas flow rate control valve, utilizing a
15 parameter changing said amount of passage exhaust gas and the system calculating an amount of cylinder inflow exhaust gas defined as an amount of exhaust gas flowing into a cylinder, utilizing said calculated amount of passage exhaust gas , wherein

20 a value of said parameter is read in, a dead time corresponding to the time taken until the exhaust gas passing through said exhaust gas flow rate control valve reaches the cylinder and a tracking lag of a change in the amount of cylinder inflow exhaust gas
25 with respect to a change in said amount of passage exhaust gas are reflected in said read value, and the amount of passage exhaust gas is calculated utilizing the read value in which the dead time and tracking lag are reflected.

30 9. A cylinder inflow exhaust gas calculation system as set forth in claim 8, wherein said tracking lag is a first-order lag, and a time constant of said first-order lag and said dead time are changed in accordance with an engine speed.

35 10. A cylinder inflow exhaust gas calculation system as set forth in claim 8, wherein the internal combustion engine is provided with a plurality of

cylinders, a ratio of an actual amount of cylinder inflow exhaust gas in each cylinder with respect to said calculated amount of cylinder inflow exhaust gas is found in advance as a distribution constant, and said
5 distribution constant is multiplied with said calculated amount of cylinder inflow exhaust gas to calculate the amount of cylinder inflow exhaust gas in each cylinder.

11. A cylinder inflow exhaust gas calculation system as set forth in claim 8, wherein the internal
10 combustion engine is provided with a plurality of cylinders, and said tracking lag and dead time are set for each cylinder.

12. A cylinder inflow exhaust gas amount calculation system as set forth in claim 8, wherein the
15 internal engine is provided with an intake valve with a variable closing timing, and the setting of said tracking lag and the setting of said dead time are changed in accordance with a closing time of the intake valve.

13. A cylinder inflow exhaust gas amount calculation system as set forth in claim 8, wherein a
20 flow rate of gas near an opening of an exhaust gas recirculation passage opening to the intake passage can be changed by one of a change of passage volume from the exhaust gas flow rate control valve to the intake valve
25 in accordance with an engine operating state and a change of a channel sectional area of the intake passage in accordance with the engine operating state, and the setting of the tracking lag and the setting of the dead time are changed in accordance with one of said passage
30 volume and said flow rate of gas.

14. An intake passage inflow exhaust gas amount calculation system of an internal combustion engine
provided with an intake passage, an exhaust passage, an exhaust gas recirculation passage connecting the intake
35 passage and exhaust passage, and an exhaust gas flow rate control valve arranged in the exhaust gas recirculation passage for controlling the flow rate of the exhaust gas

flowing in the exhaust gas recirculation passage, the system calculating an amount of an intake passage inflow exhaust gas defined as an amount of exhaust gas flowing into the intake passage, utilizing an amount of passage exhaust gas defined as an amount of exhaust gas passing through said exhaust gas flow rate control valve, wherein
5 an intake passage inflow exhaust gas is calculated considering the dead time corresponding to the time taken until the exhaust gas passing through said
10 exhaust gas flow rate control valve reaches the intake passage and a tracking lag of a change in the intake passage inflow exhaust gas with respect to a change in said amount of passage exhaust gas.

15 15. An intake passage inflow exhaust gas calculation system as set forth in claim 14, wherein said tracking lag is a first-order lag, and a time constant of said first-order lag and said dead time are changed in accordance with an engine speed.

20 16. An intake passage inflow exhaust gas calculation system as set forth in claim 14, wherein the internal combustion engine is provided with a plurality of cylinders, said exhaust gas recirculation passage is connected to an intake passage connected to each
25 cylinder, a ratio of an actual amount of intake passage inflow exhaust gas to the intake passage cylinder connected to each cylinder with respect to said calculated amount of cylinder inflow exhaust gas is found in advance as a distribution constant, and said
30 distribution constant is multiplied with said calculated amount of intake passage inflow exhaust gas to calculate the amount of intake passage inflow exhaust gas in the intake passage connected to each cylinder.

35 17. An intake passage inflow exhaust gas calculation system as set forth in claim 14, wherein the internal combustion engine is provided with a plurality of cylinders, and said tracking lag and dead time are set for each cylinder.

18. An intake passage inflow exhaust gas amount calculation system as set forth in claim 14, wherein the internal engine is provided with an intake valve with a variable closing timing, and the setting of said tracking lag and the setting of said dead time are changed in accordance with a closing time of the intake valve.

19. An intake passage inflow exhaust gas amount calculation system as set forth in claim 14, wherein a flow rate of gas near an opening of an exhaust gas recirculation passage opening to the intake passage can be changed by one of a change of passage volume from the exhaust gas flow rate control valve to the intake valve in accordance with an engine operating state and a change of a channel sectional area of the intake passage in accordance with the engine operating state, and the setting of the tracking lag and the setting of the dead time are changed in accordance with one of said passage volume and said flow rate of gas.

20. An intake passage inflow exhaust gas amount calculation system as set forth in claim 14, wherein a flow rate of gas near an opening of an exhaust gas recirculation passage opening to the intake passage can be changed by one of a change of passage volume from said exhaust gas flow rate control valve to said intake valve in accordance with an engine operating state and a change of a channel sectional area of said intake passage in accordance with the engine operating state, a function equation expressing the amount of passage exhaust gas by a function of the pressure in the intake passage, and a parameter other than the pressure in said intake passage is found and stored in advance, an amount of passage exhaust gas is calculated from the pressure in the intake passage utilizing the function equation, and the parameter other than the pressure in the intake passage is changed in accordance with one of said passage volume and said flow rate of gas.

21. An intake passage inflow exhaust gas amount

calculation system of an internal combustion engine provided with an intake passage, an exhaust passage, an exhaust gas recirculation passage connecting the intake passage and exhaust passage, and an exhaust gas flow rate control valve arranged in the exhaust gas recirculation passage for controlling the flow rate of the exhaust gas flowing in the exhaust gas recirculation passage, the system calculating an amount of passage exhaust gas defined as an amount of exhaust gas passing through an exhaust gas flow rate control valve, utilizing a parameter changing said amount of passage exhaust gas and the system calculating an amount of intake exhaust gas defined as an amount of exhaust gas flowing into the intake passage, utilizing said calculated amount of passage exhaust gas, wherein

a value of said parameter is read in, a dead time corresponding to the time taken until the exhaust gas passing through said exhaust gas flow rate control valve reaches the cylinder and a tracking lag of a change in the amount of cylinder inflow exhaust gas with respect to a change in said amount of passage exhaust gas are reflected in said read value, and the amount of passage exhaust gas is calculated utilizing the read value in which the dead time and tracking lag are reflected.

22. An intake passage inflow exhaust gas calculation system as set forth in claim 21, wherein said tracking lag is a first-order lag, and a time constant of said first-order lag and said dead time are changed in accordance with an engine speed.

23. An intake passage inflow exhaust gas calculation system as set forth in claim 21, wherein the internal combustion engine is provided with a plurality of cylinders, said exhaust gas recirculation passage is connected to an intake passage connected to each cylinder, a ratio of an actual amount of intake passage inflow exhaust gas to the intake passage connected to

each cylinder with respect to said calculated amount of cylinder inflow exhaust gas is found in advance as a distribution constant, and said distribution constant is multiplied with said calculated amount of intake passage inflow exhaust gas to calculate the amount of intake passage inflow exhaust gas in the intake passage connected to each cylinder.

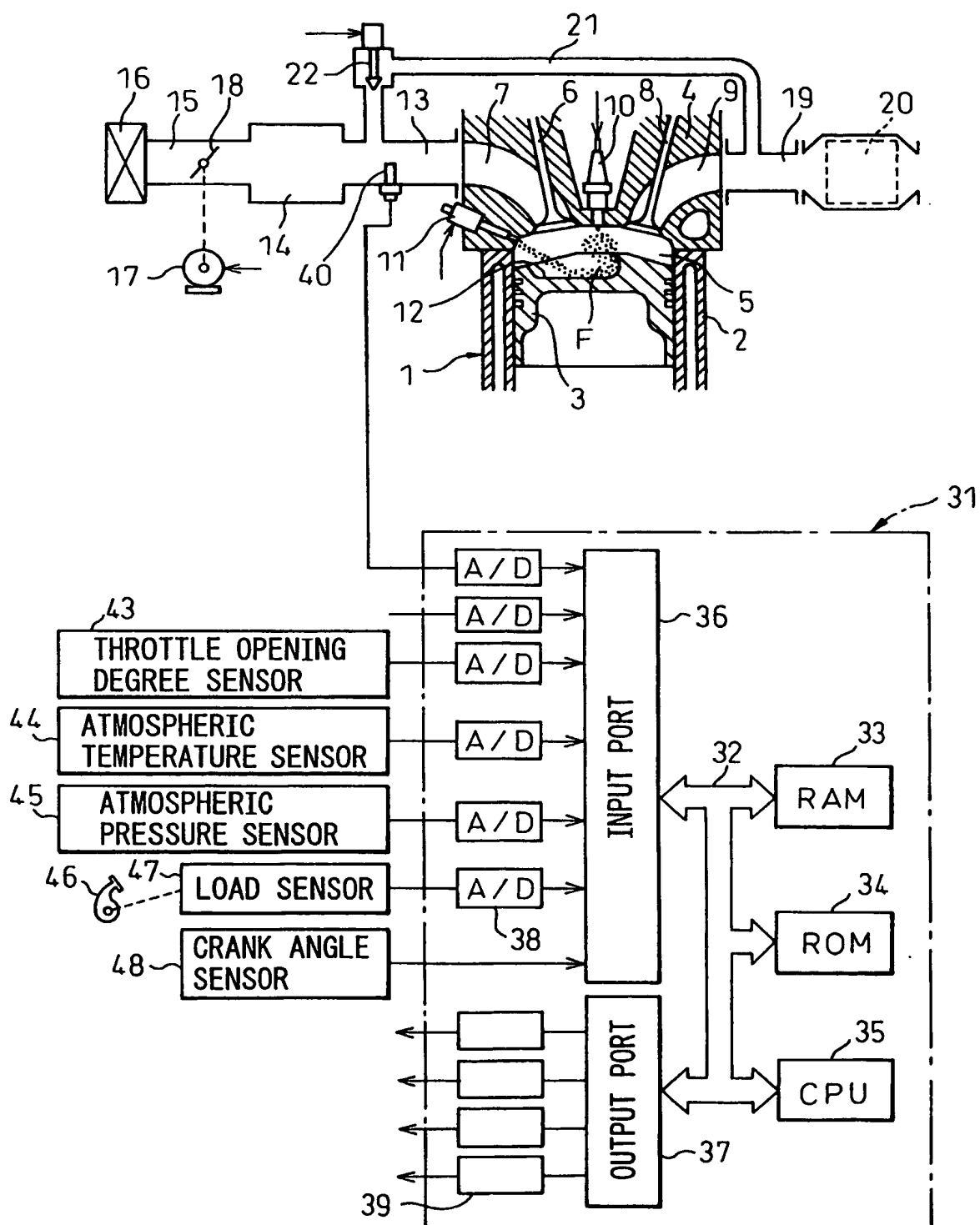
24. An intake passage inflow exhaust gas calculation system as set forth in claim 21, wherein the internal combustion engine is provided with a plurality of cylinders, and said tracking lag and dead time are set for each cylinder.

25. An intake passage inflow exhaust gas amount calculation system as set forth in claim 21, wherein the internal engine is provided with an intake valve with a variable closing timing, and the setting of said tracking lag and the setting of said dead time are changed in accordance with a closing time of the intake valve.

26. An intake passage inflow exhaust gas amount calculation system as set forth in claim 21, wherein a flow rate of gas near an opening of an exhaust gas recirculation passage opening to the intake passage can be changed by one of a change of passage volume from the exhaust gas flow rate control valve to the intake valve in accordance with an engine operating state and a change of a channel sectional area of the intake passage in accordance with the engine operating state, and the setting of the tracking lag and the setting of the dead time are changed in accordance with one of said passage volume and said flow rate of gas.

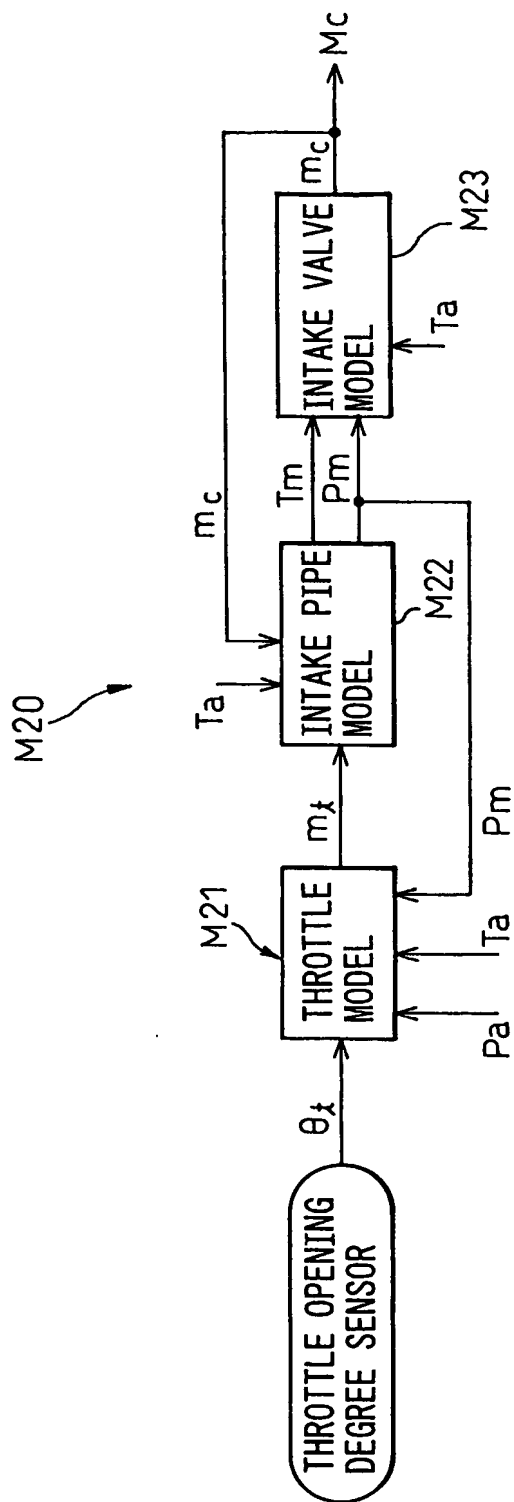
1/42

Fig.1



2/42

Fig. 2



$\frac{3}{42}$

Fig. 3

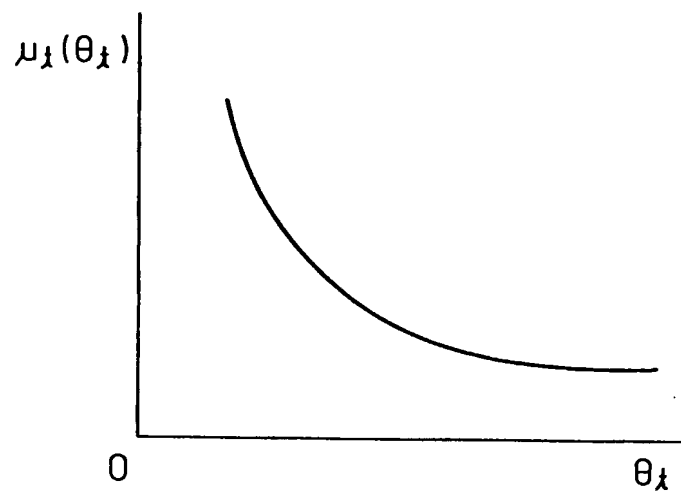
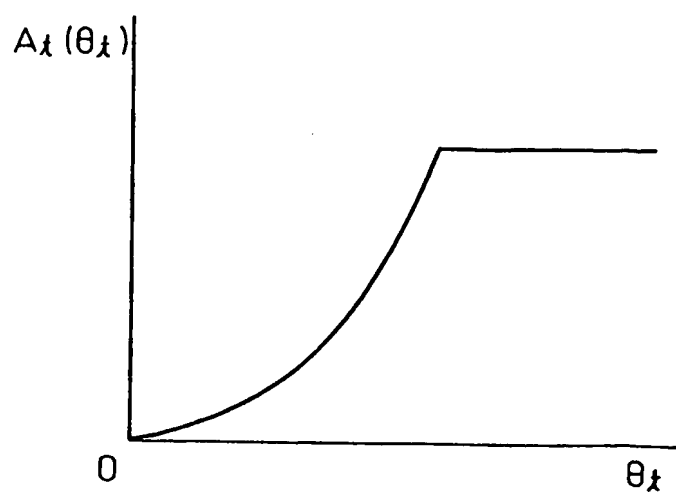


Fig. 4



4/42

Fig.5

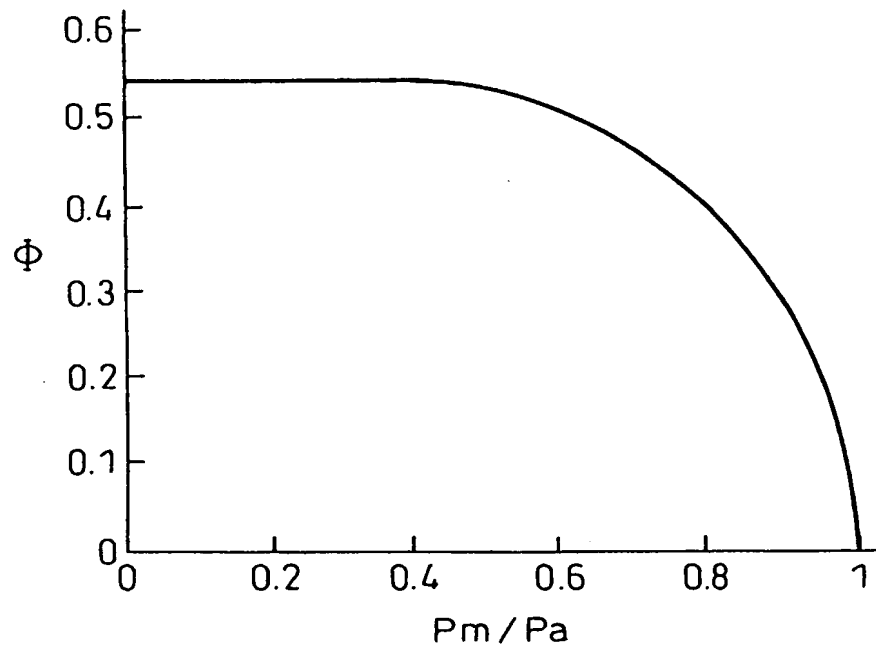
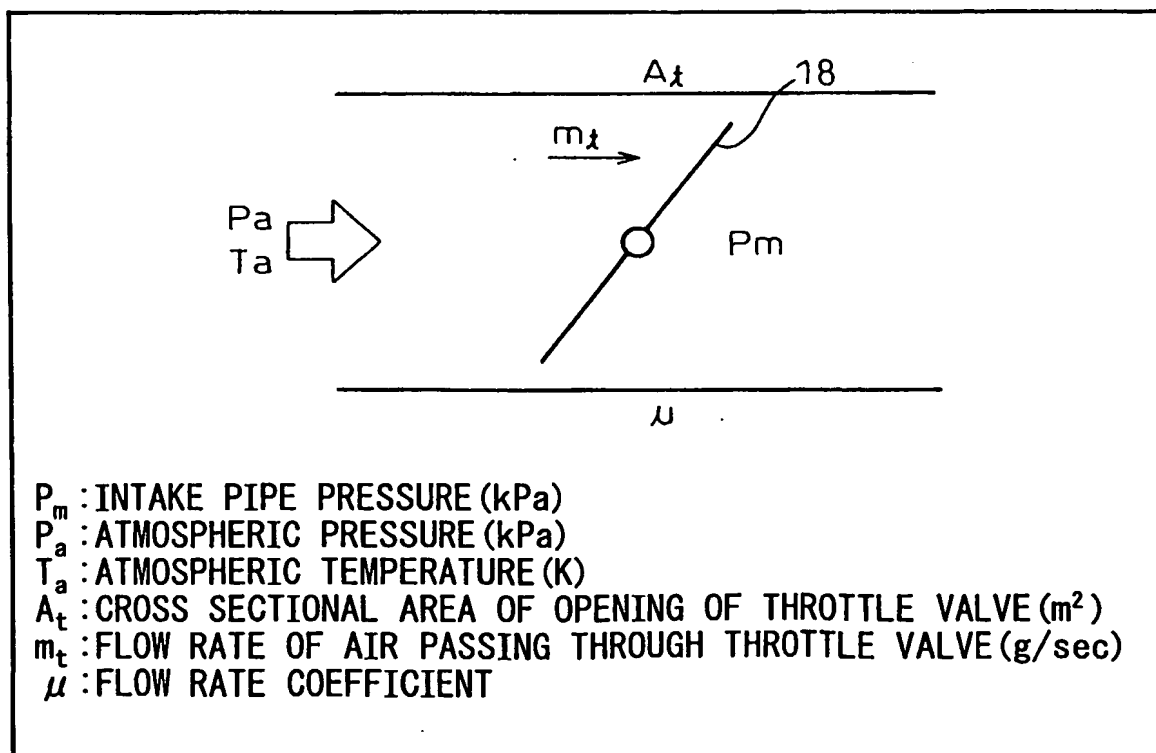
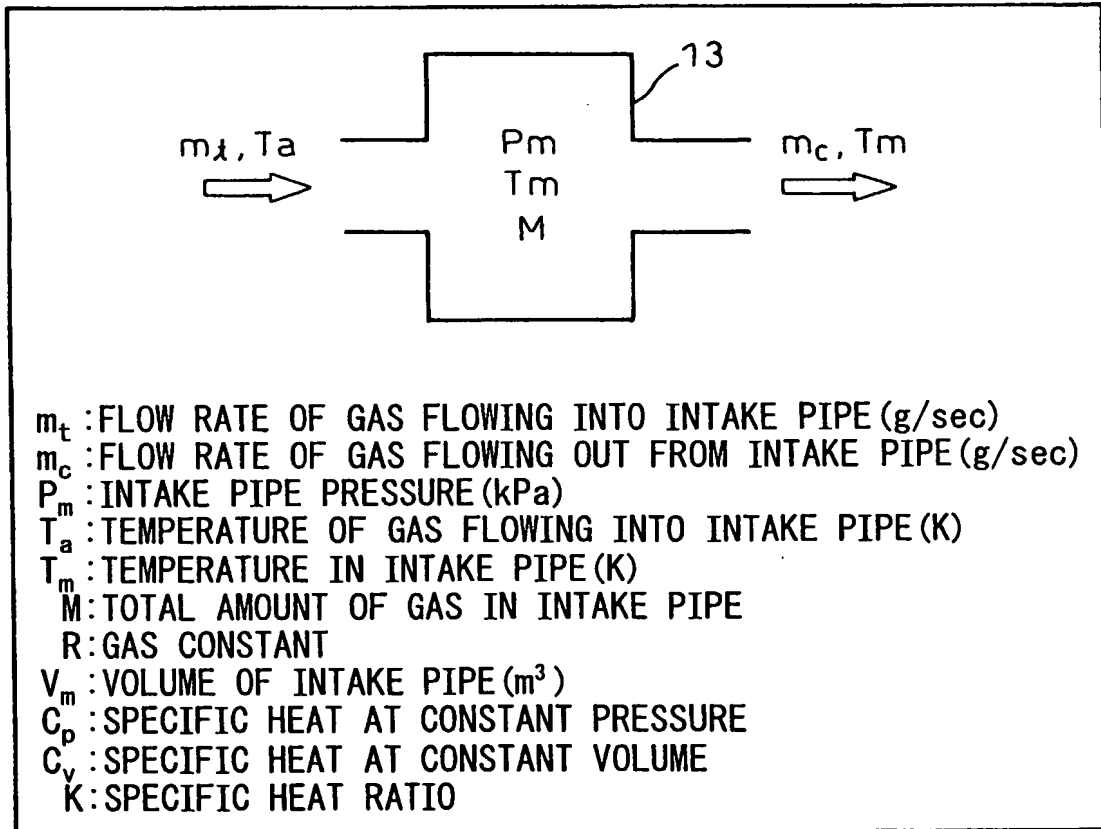


Fig.6



5/42

Fig.7



6/42

Fig.8

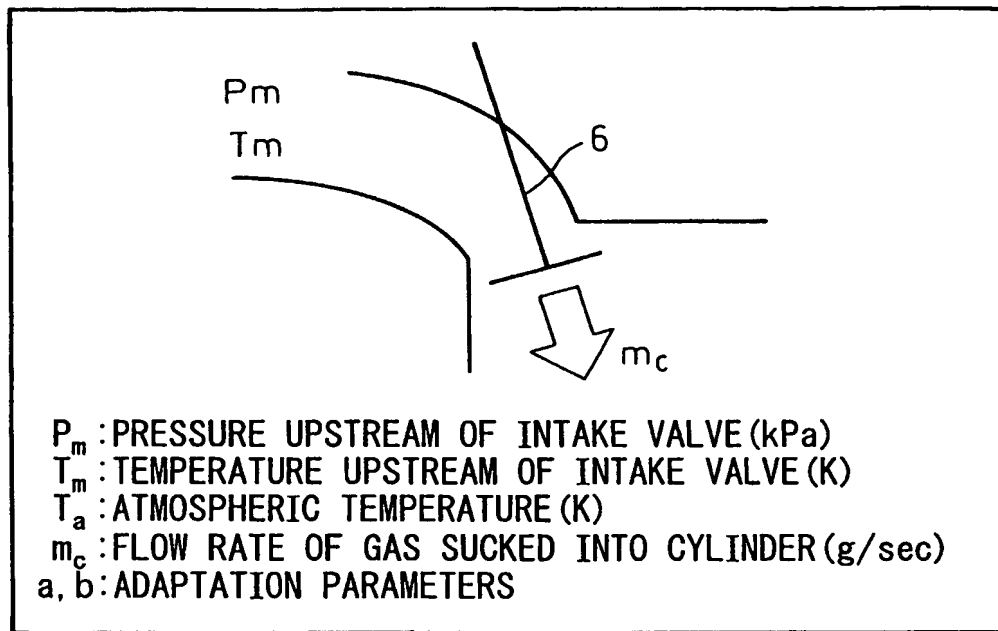
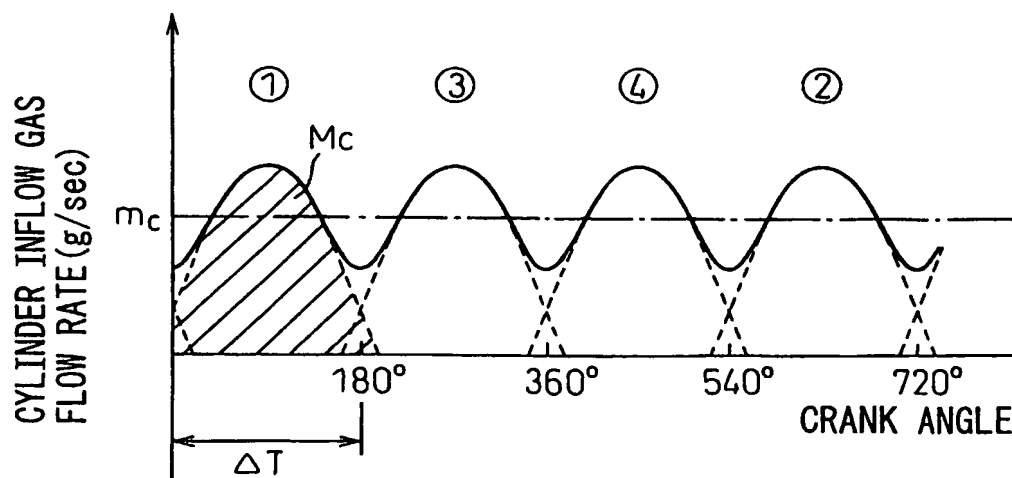
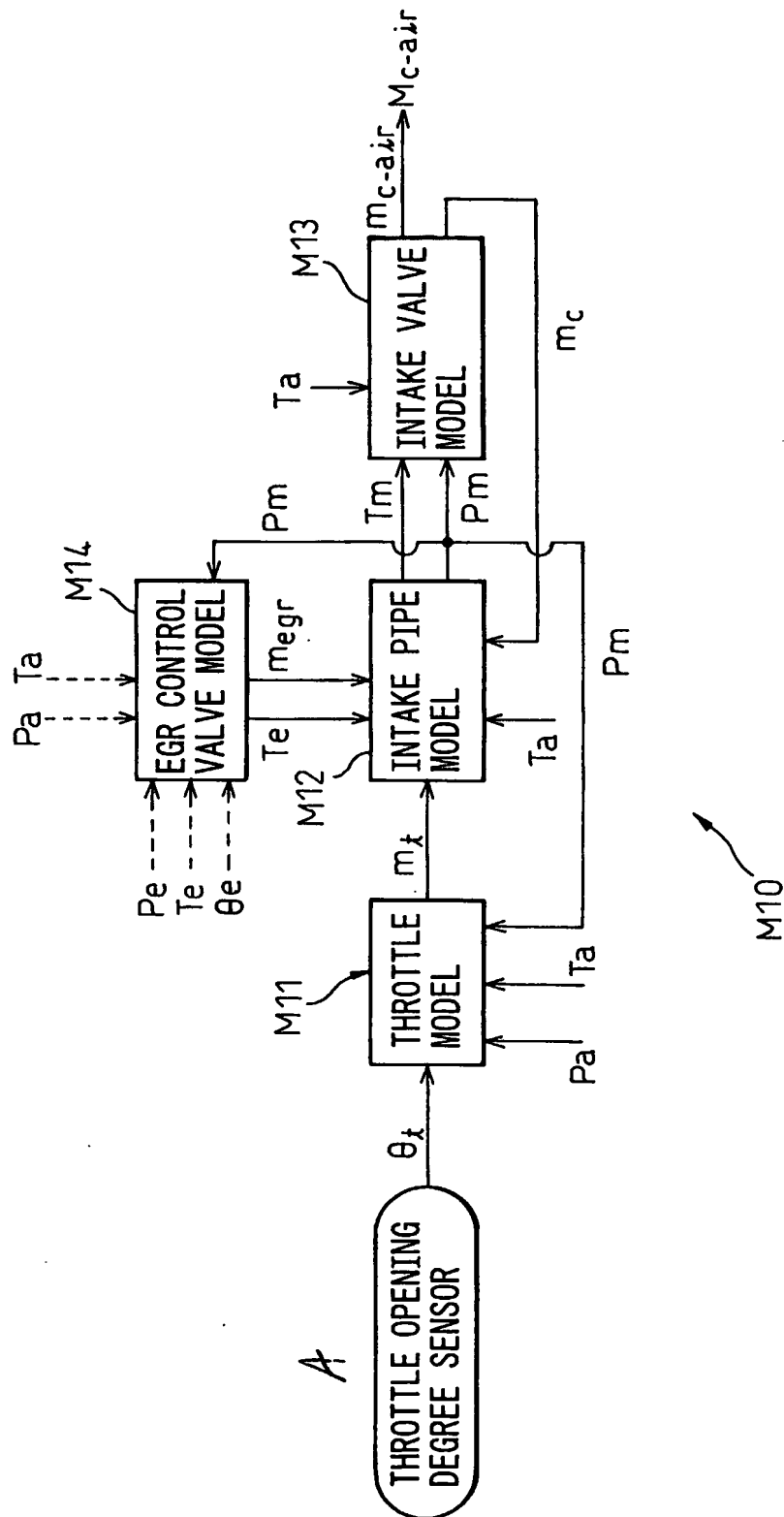


Fig.9



7/42

Fig.10



8/42

Fig.11

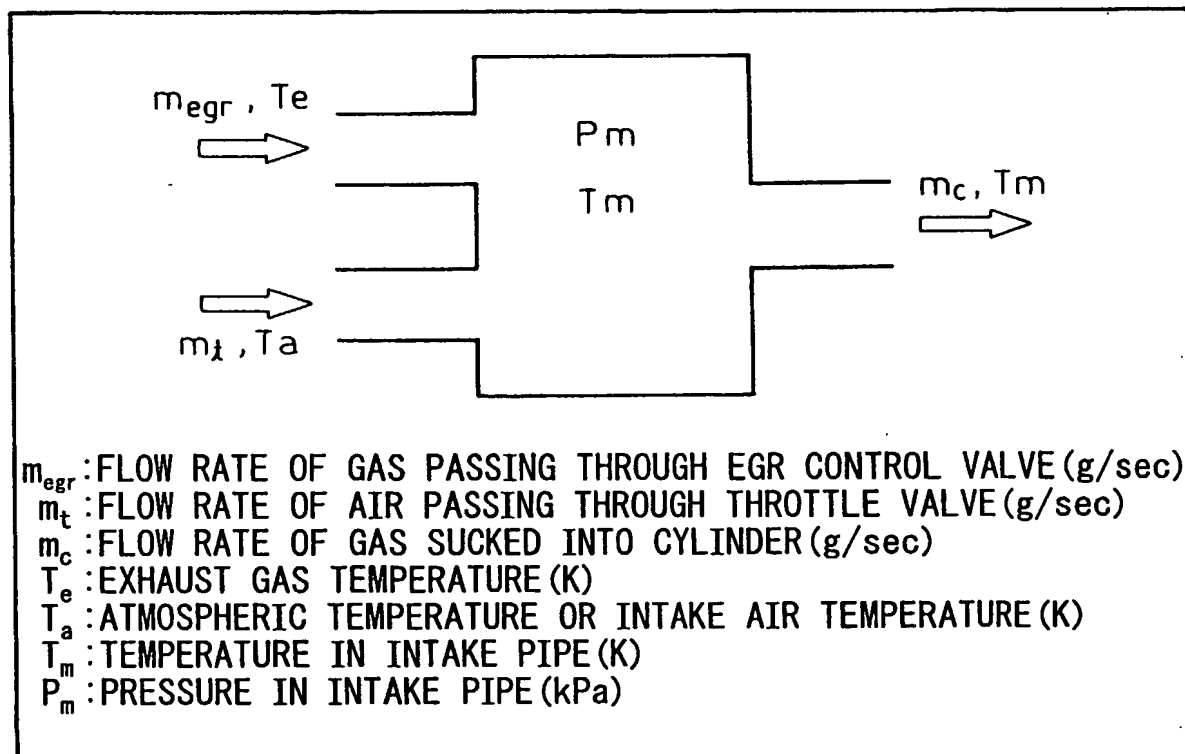
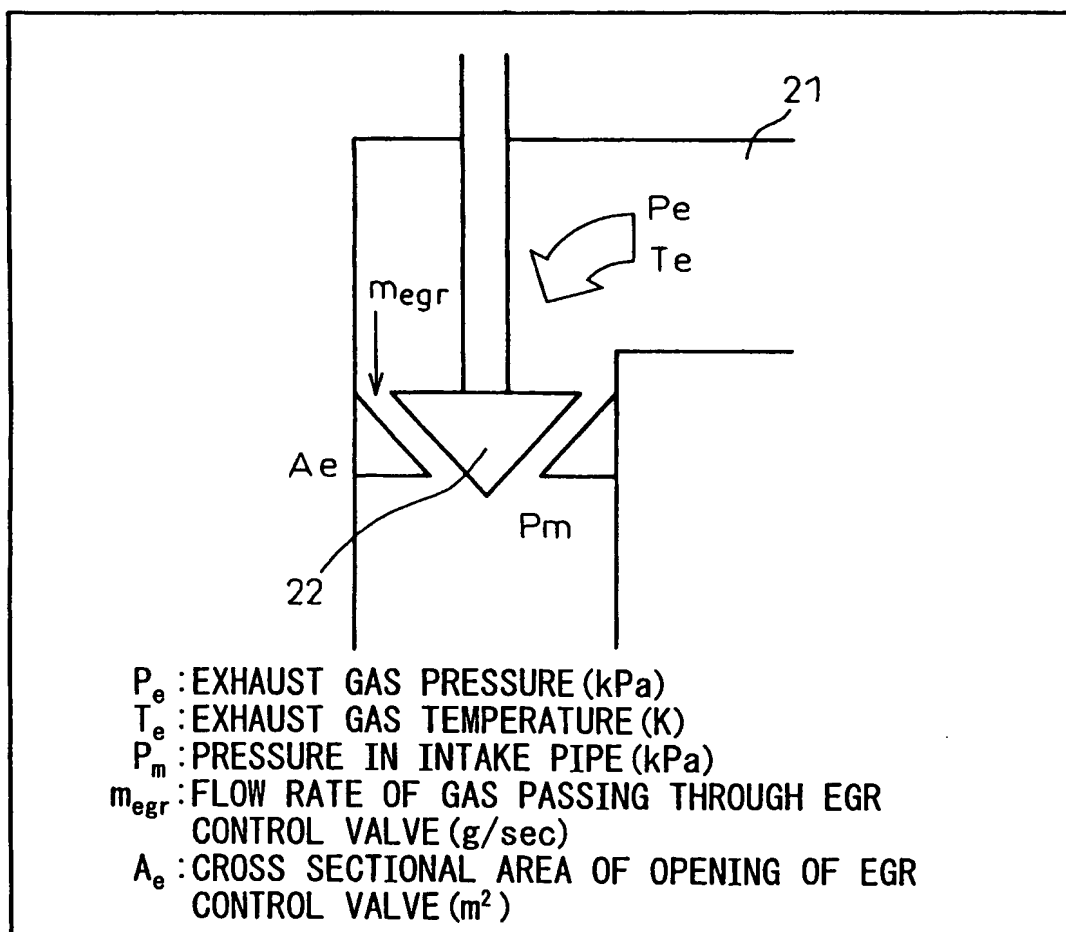


Fig.12



10/42

Fig.13

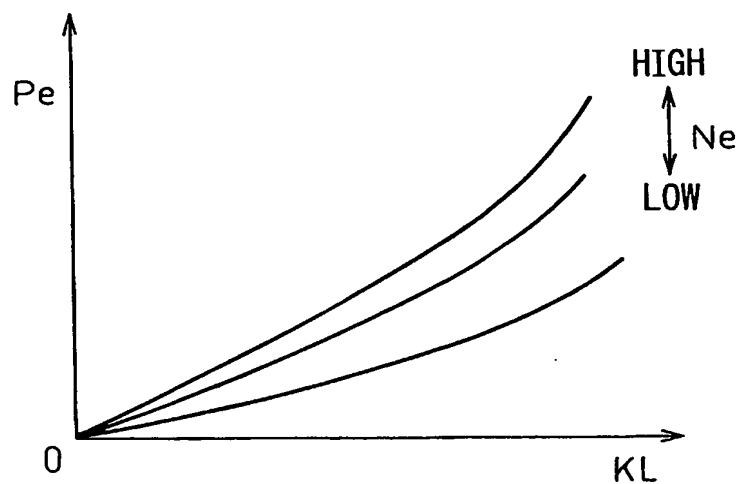
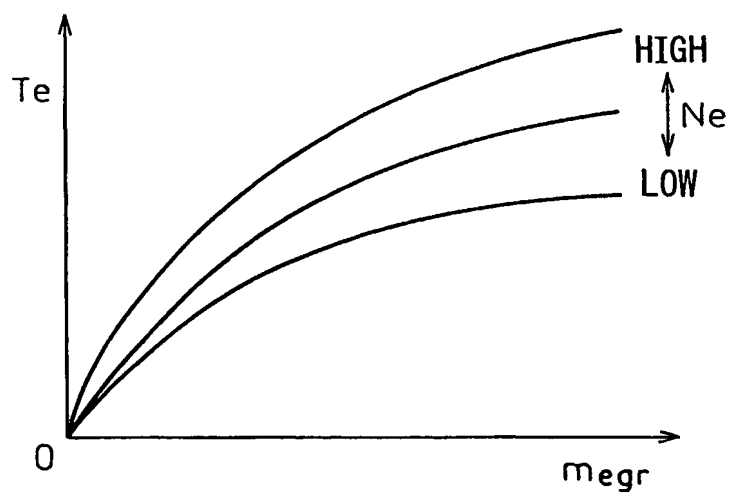


Fig.14



11/42

Fig.15

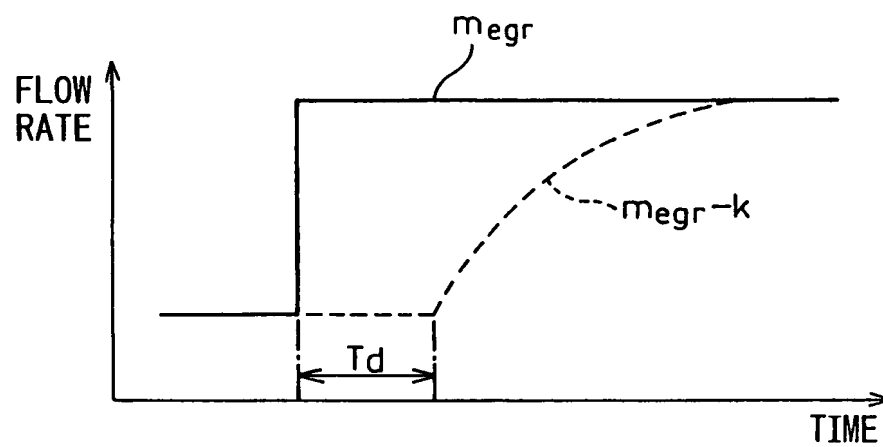
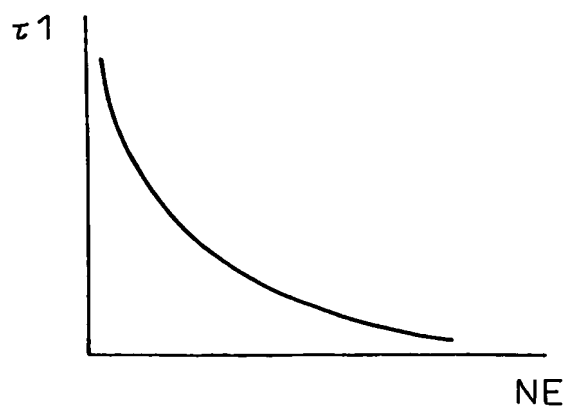


Fig.16A



Fig.16B

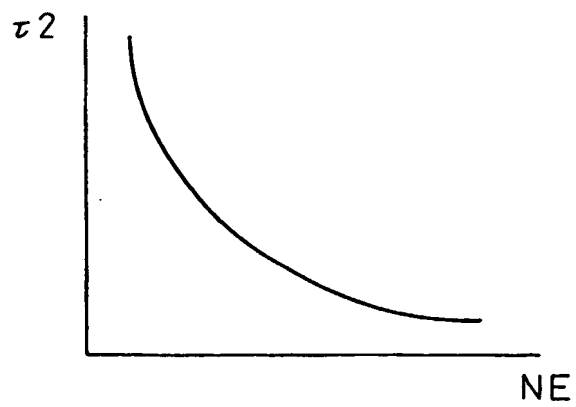


12/42

Fig.17A

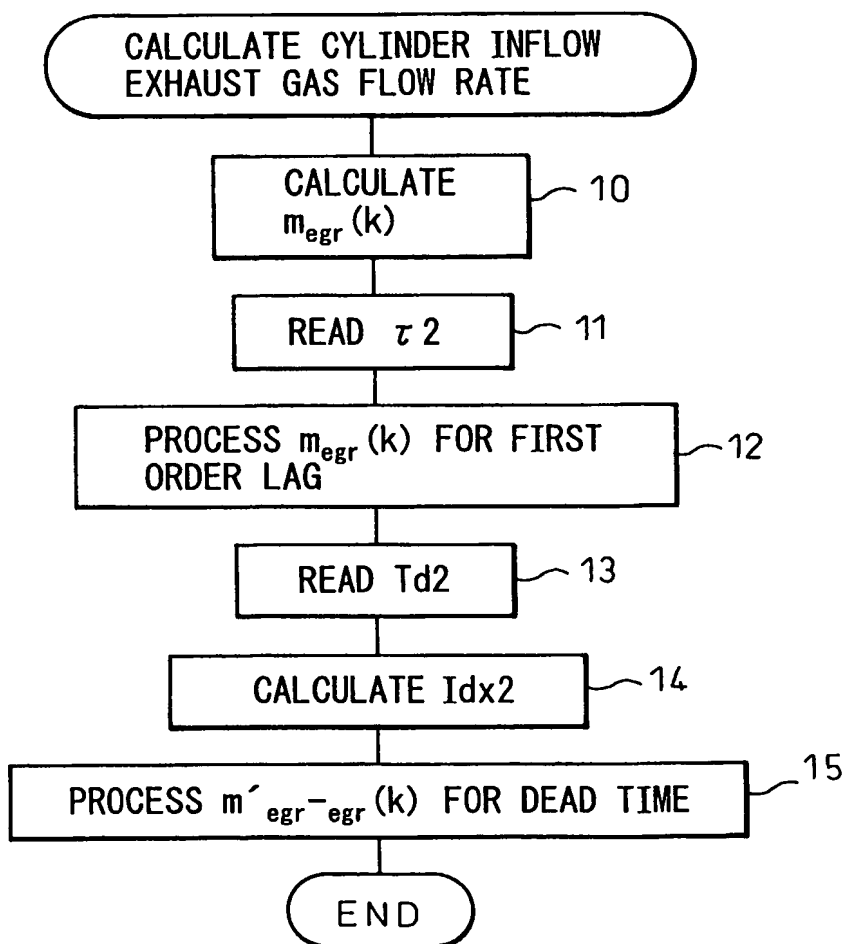


Fig.17B



13/42

Fig.18



14/42

Fig.19A

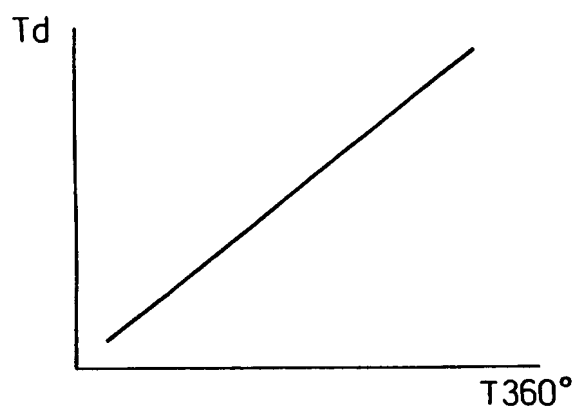
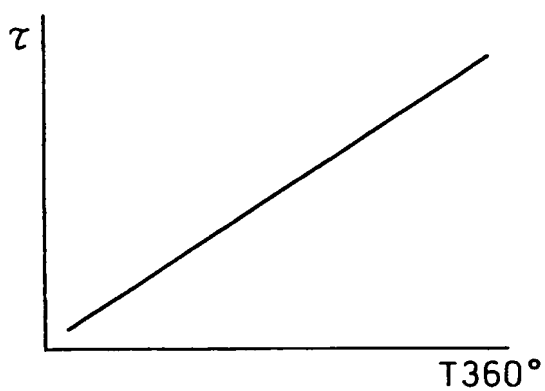


Fig.19B



15/42

Fig. 20A

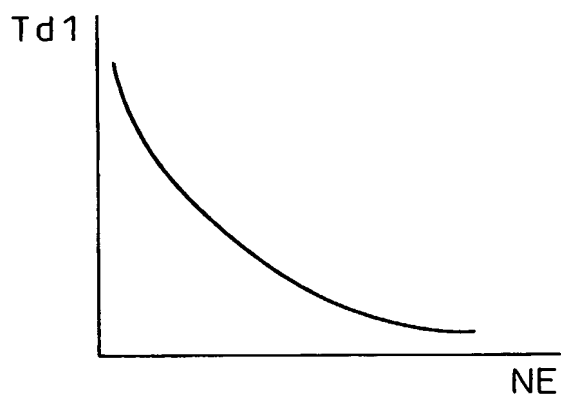
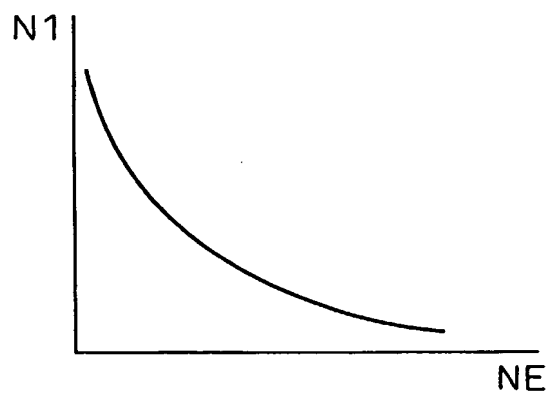


Fig. 20B



16/42

Fig. 21A

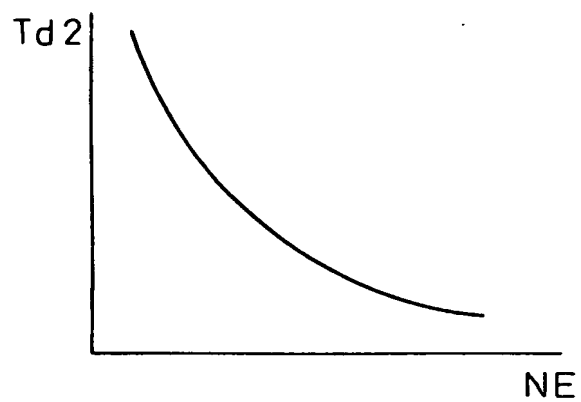
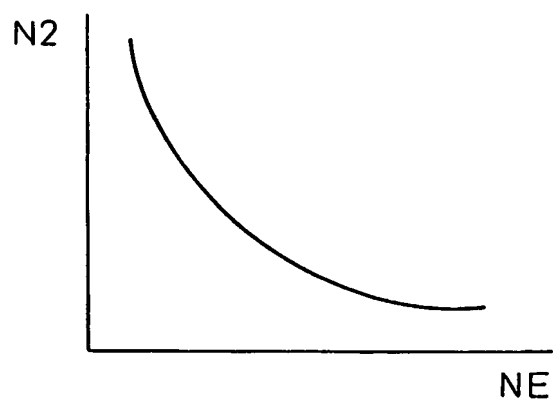
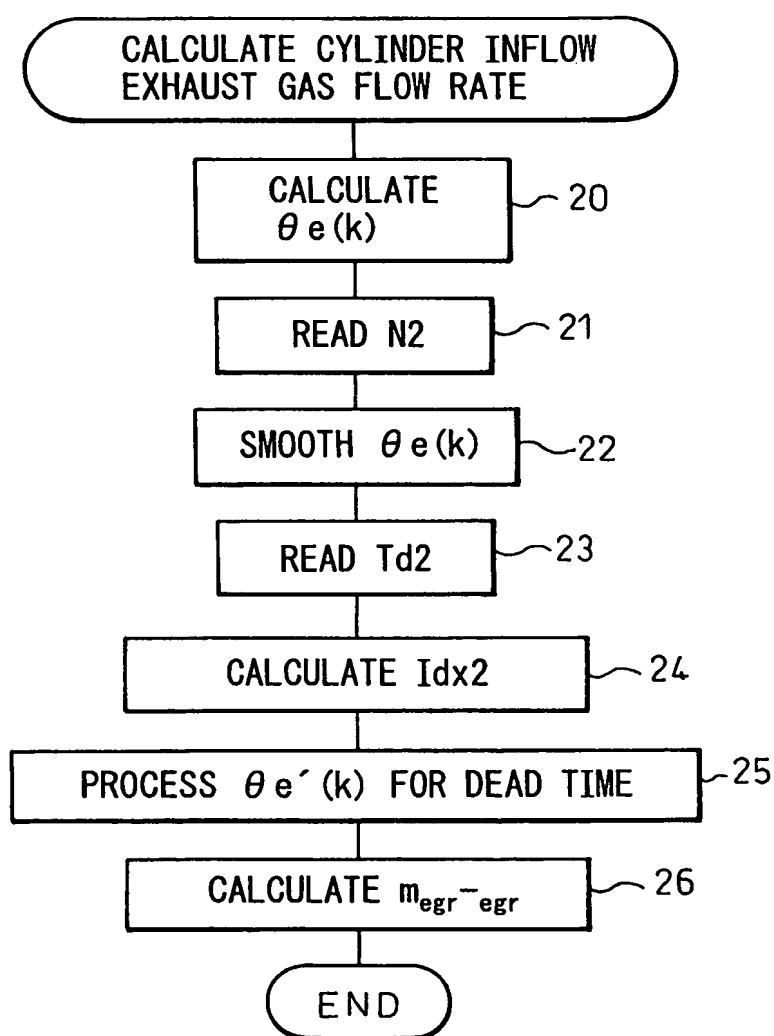


Fig. 21B



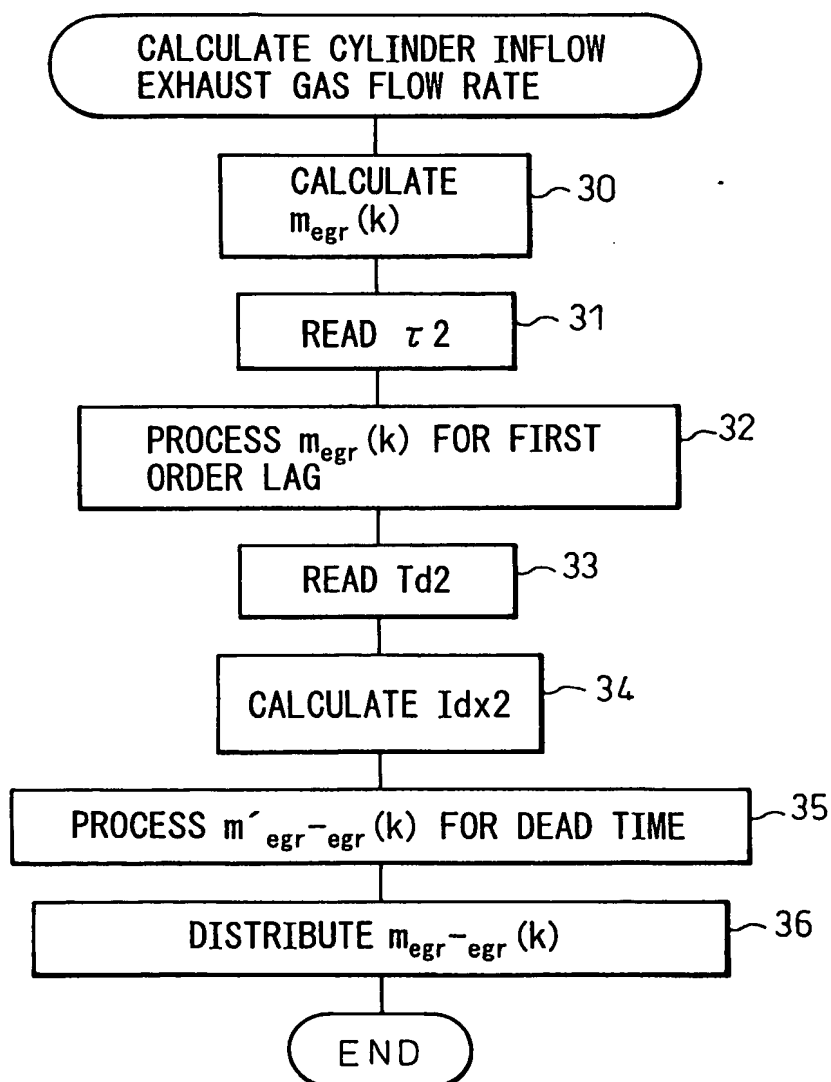
17/42

Fig. 22



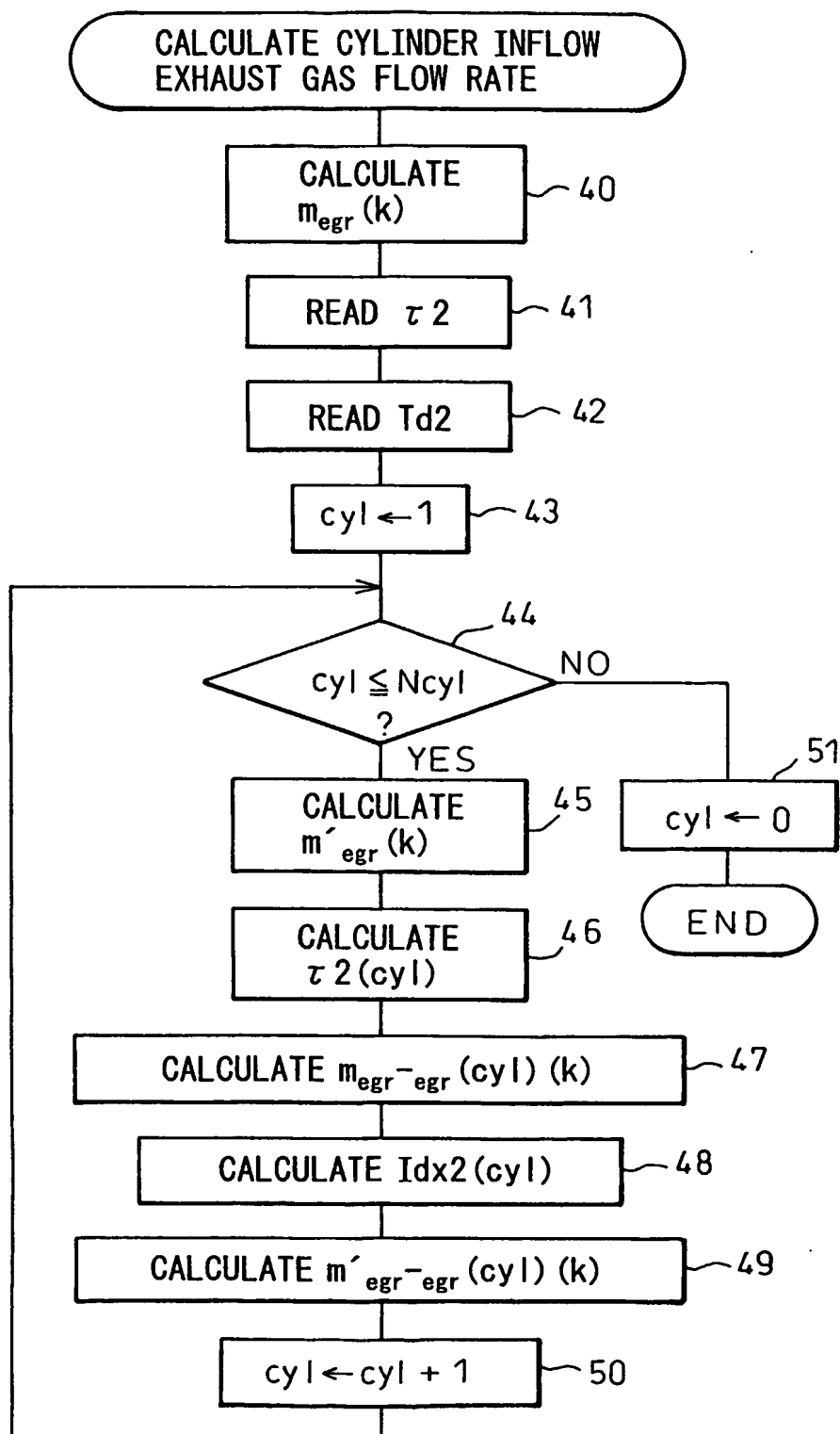
18/42

Fig.23



19/42

Fig. 24



20/42

Fig.25A

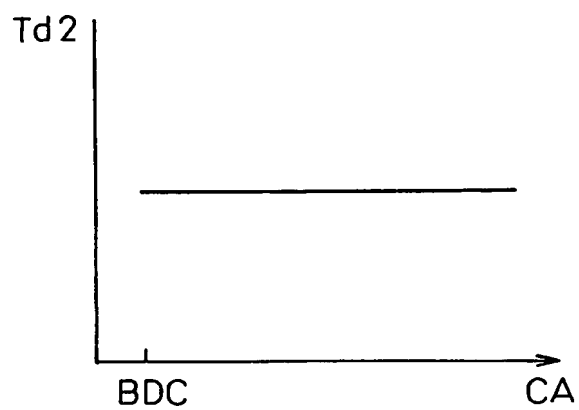
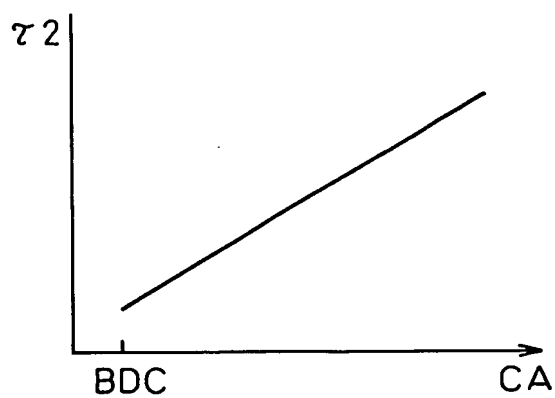


Fig.25B



21/42

Fig. 26A

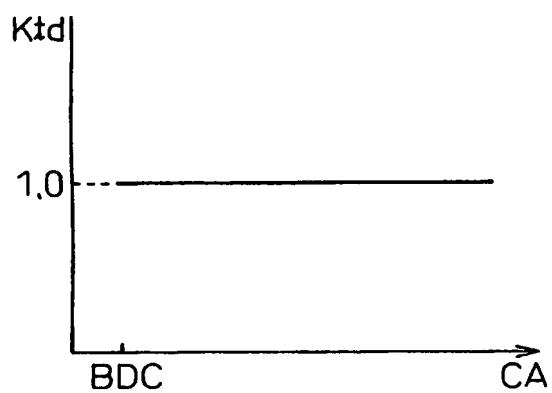
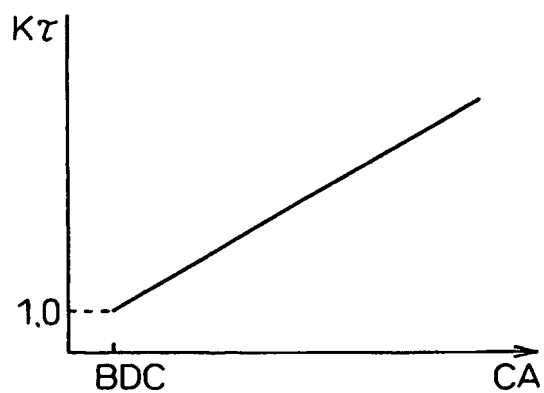


Fig. 26B



22/42

Fig.27A

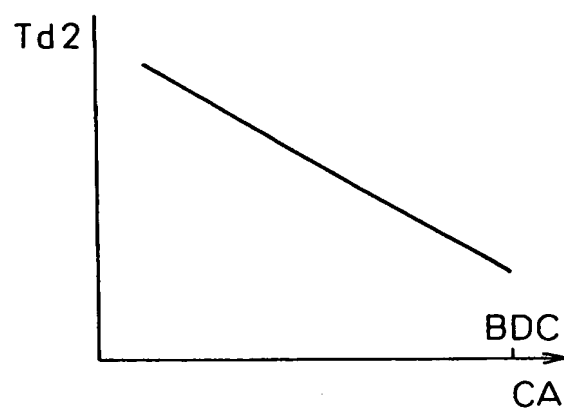
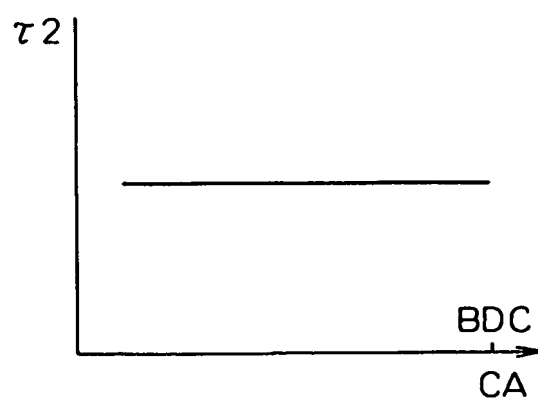


Fig.27B



23/42

Fig.28A

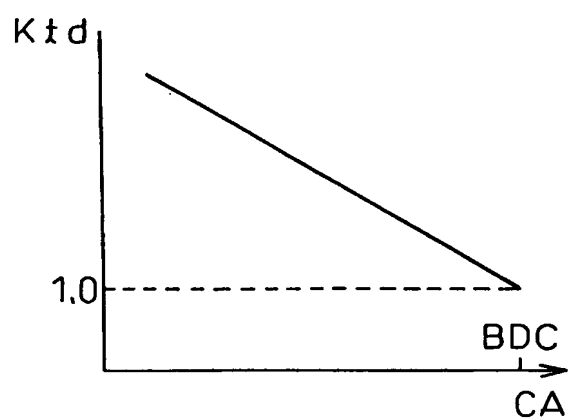
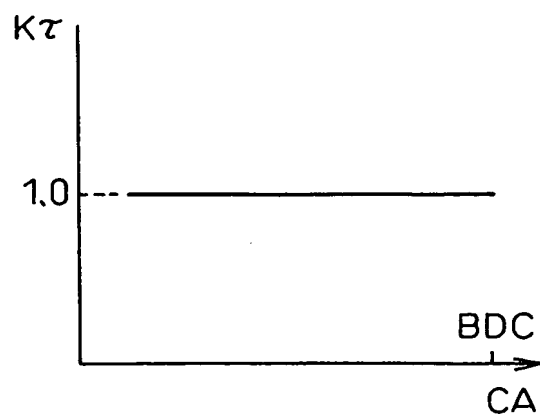


Fig.28B



$24/42$

Fig.29A

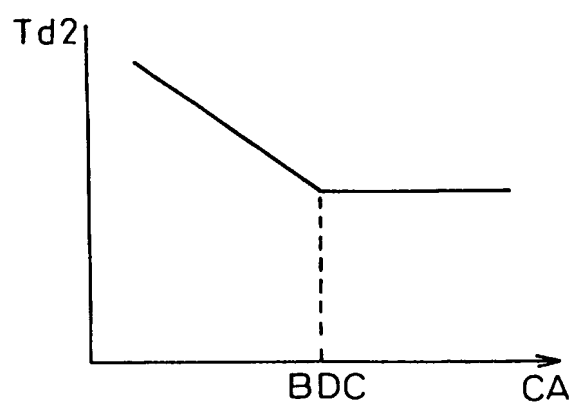
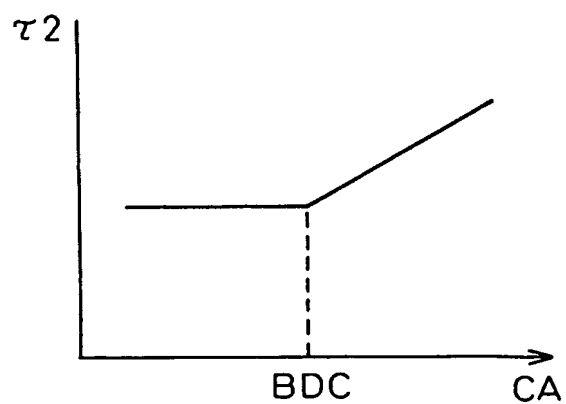


Fig.29B



25/42

Fig.30A

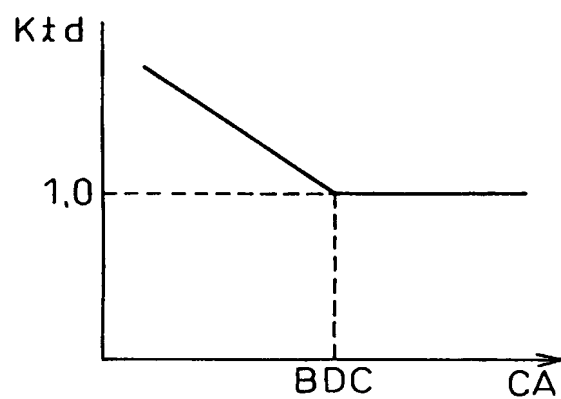


Fig.30B

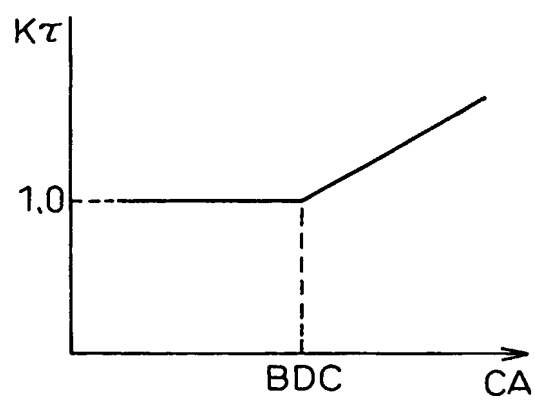


Fig.31

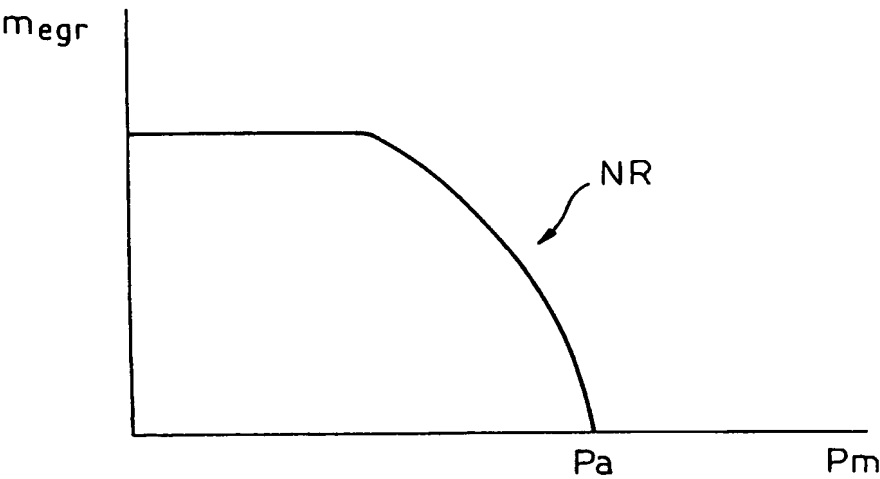
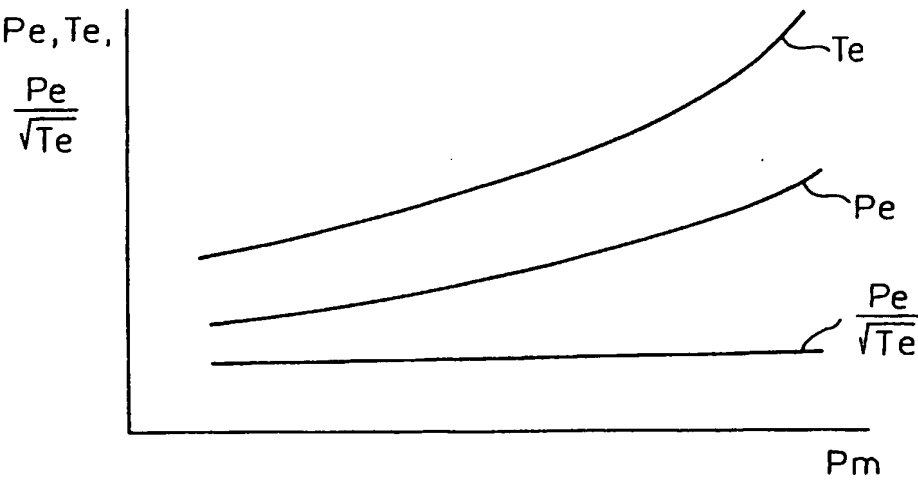


Fig.32



$27/42$

Fig.33A

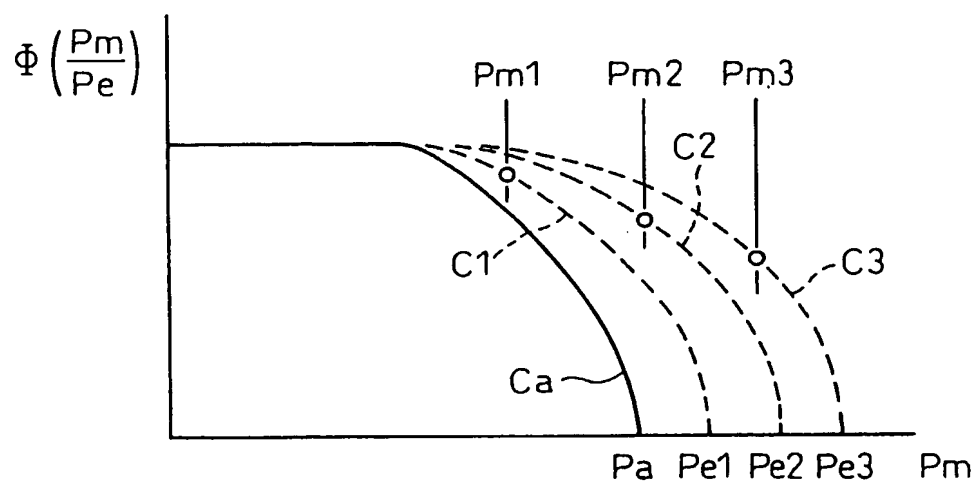
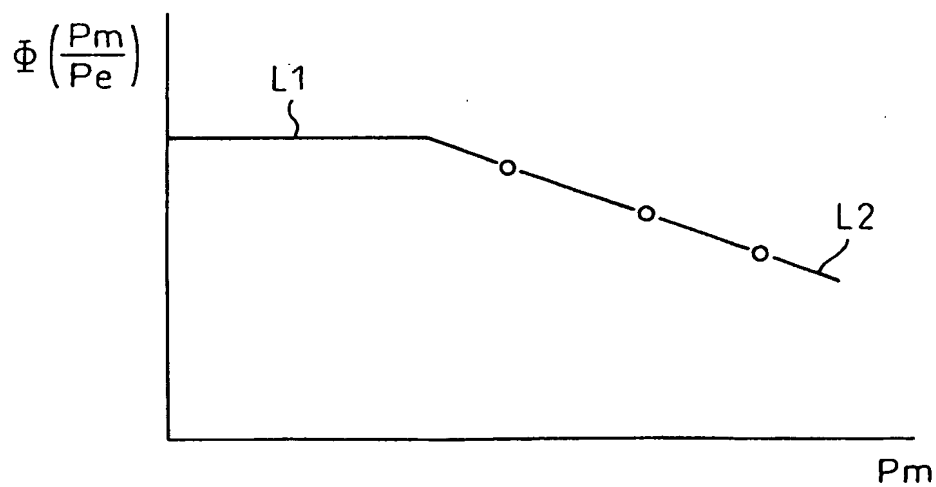
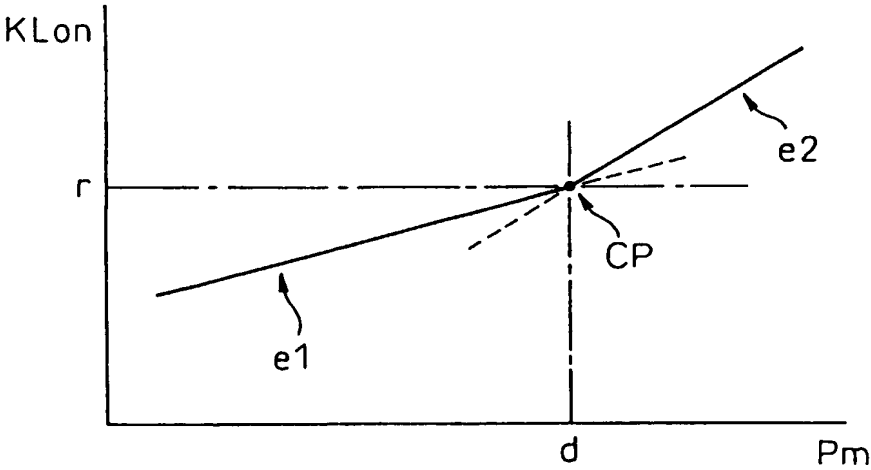


Fig.33B



28/42

Fig.34



29/42

Fig.35A

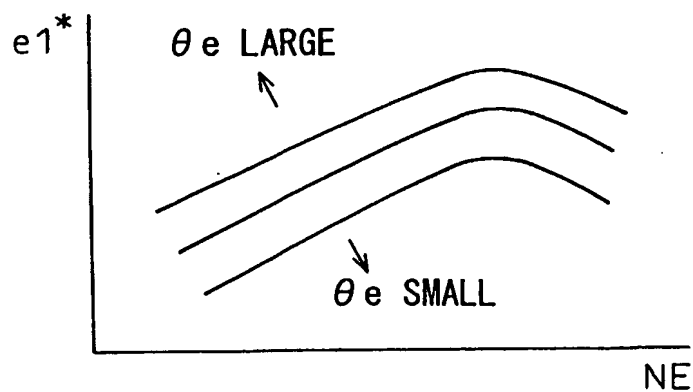


Fig.35B

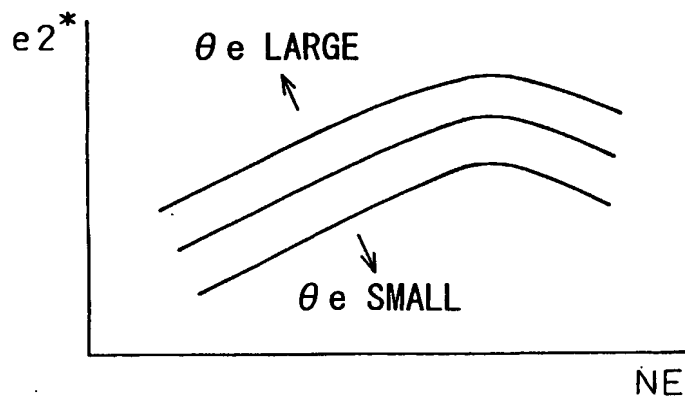


Fig.35C

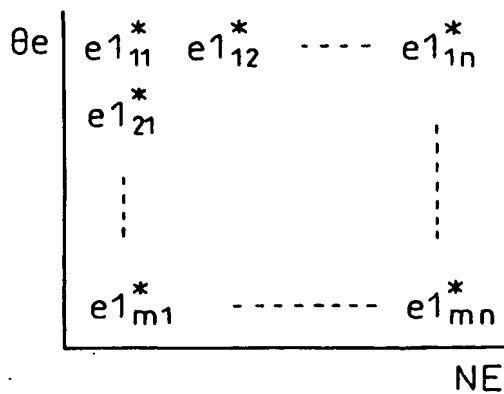
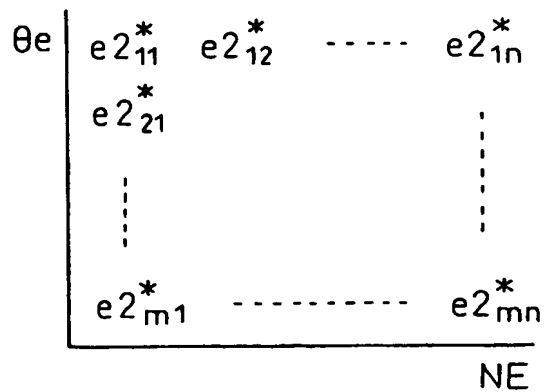


Fig.35D



30/42

Fig.36

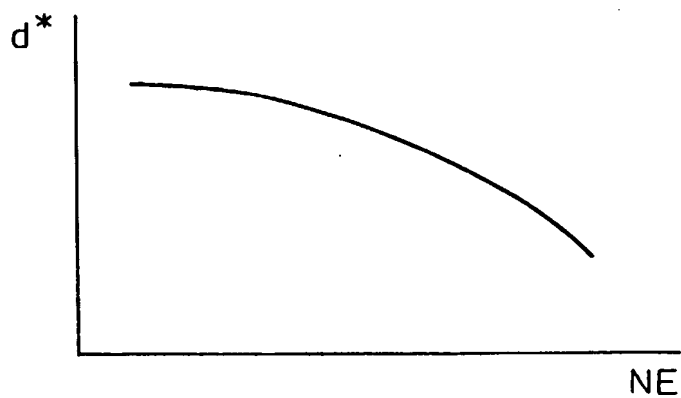


Fig.37A

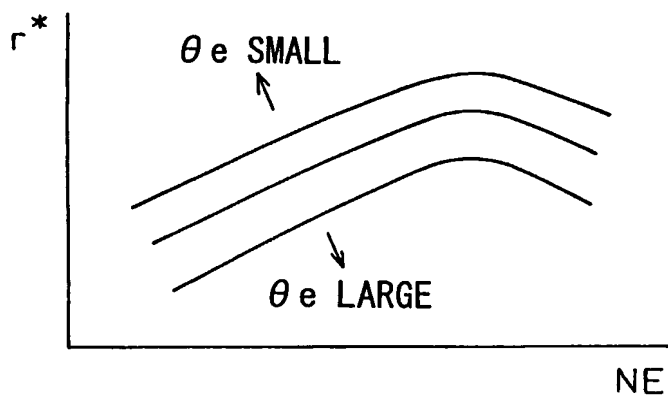
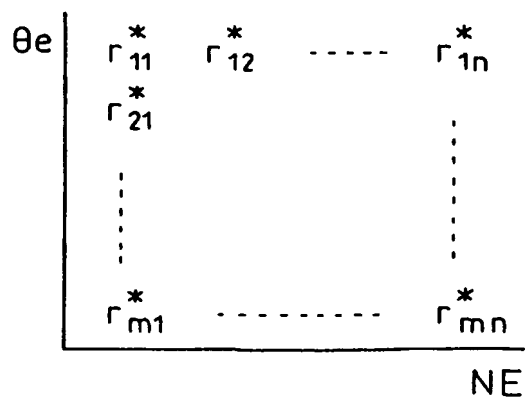


Fig.37B



31/42

Fig.38

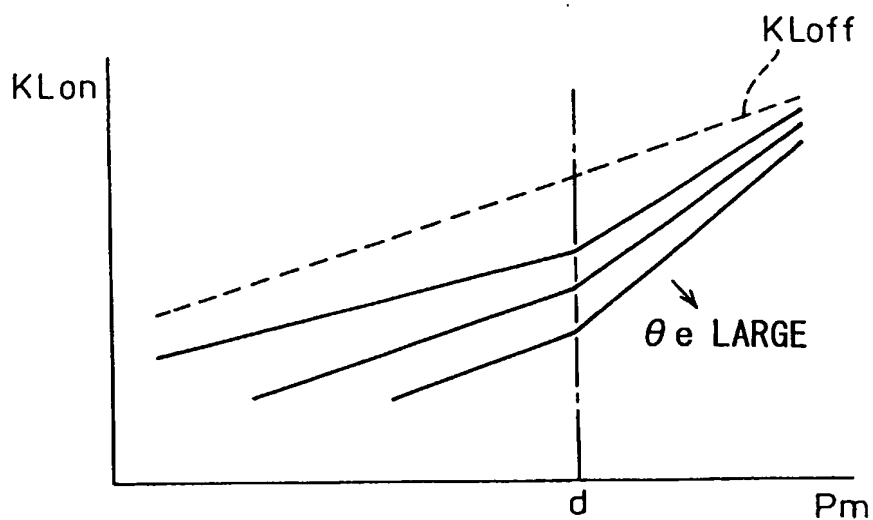
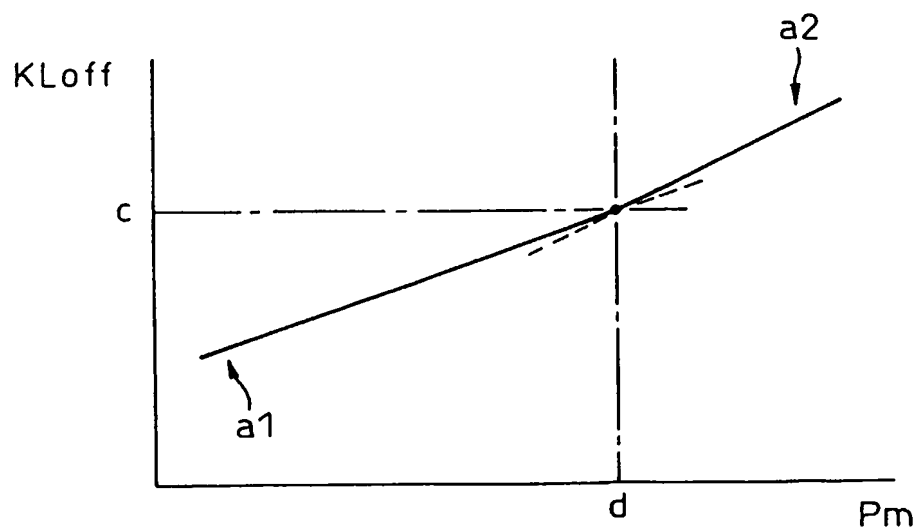


Fig.39



32/42

Fig. 40A

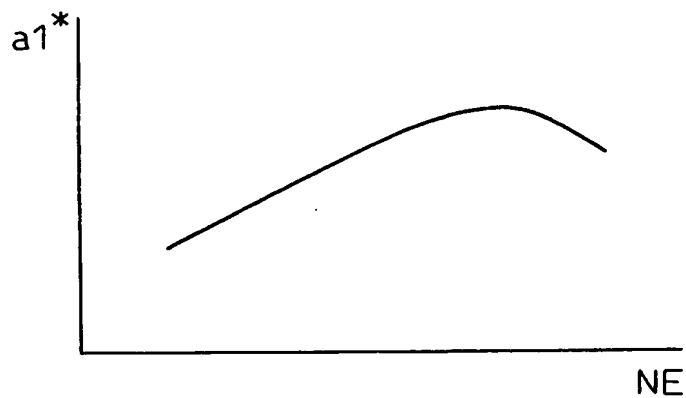


Fig. 40B

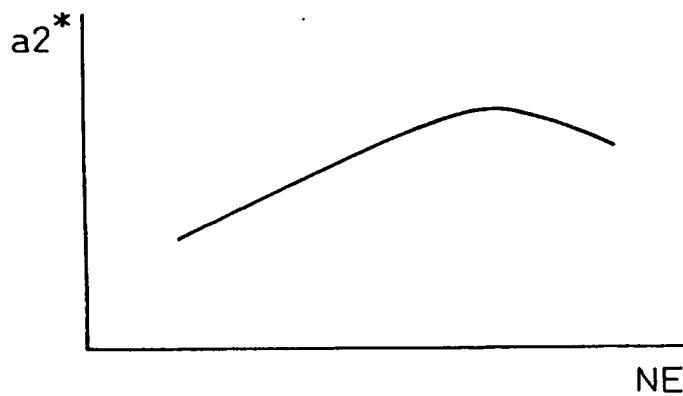
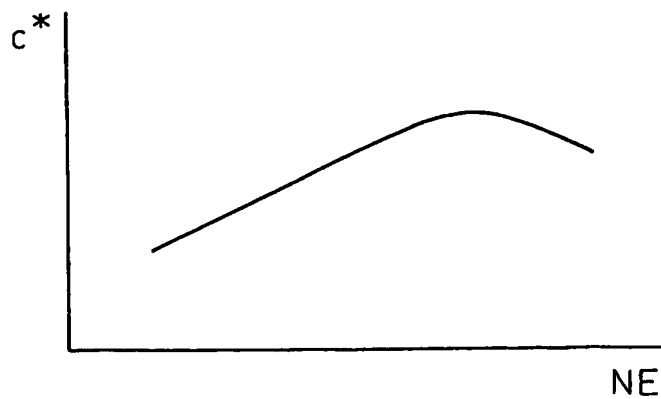
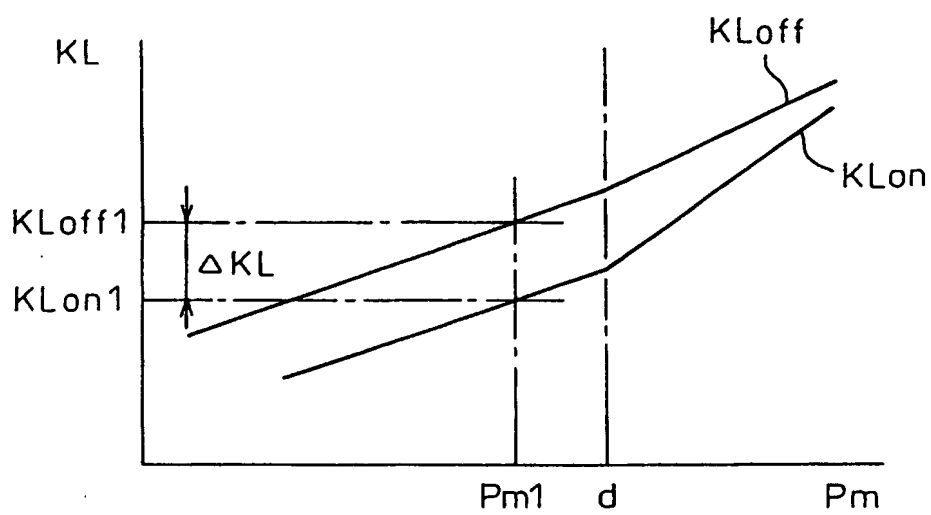


Fig. 41



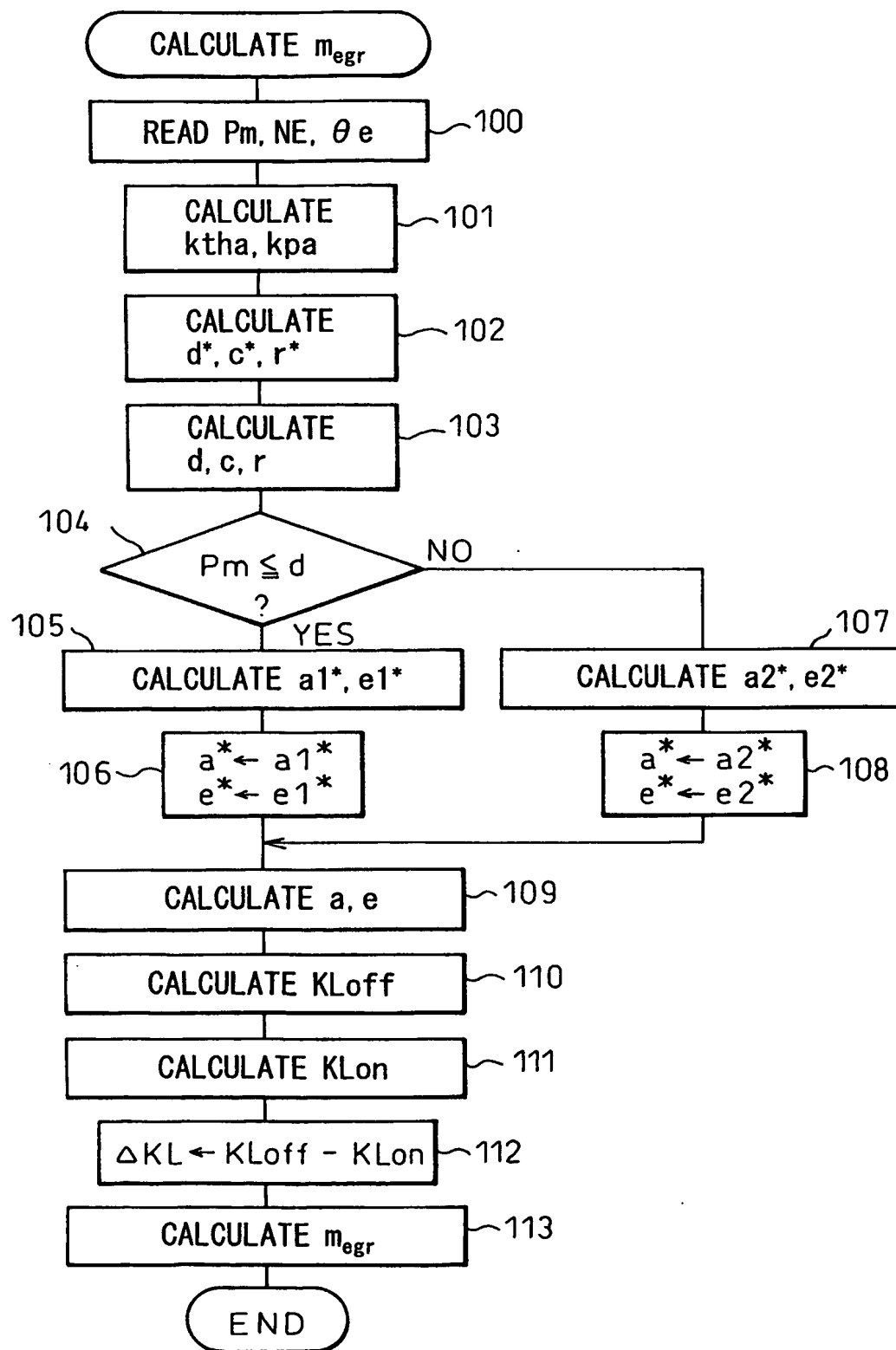
33/42

Fig. 42



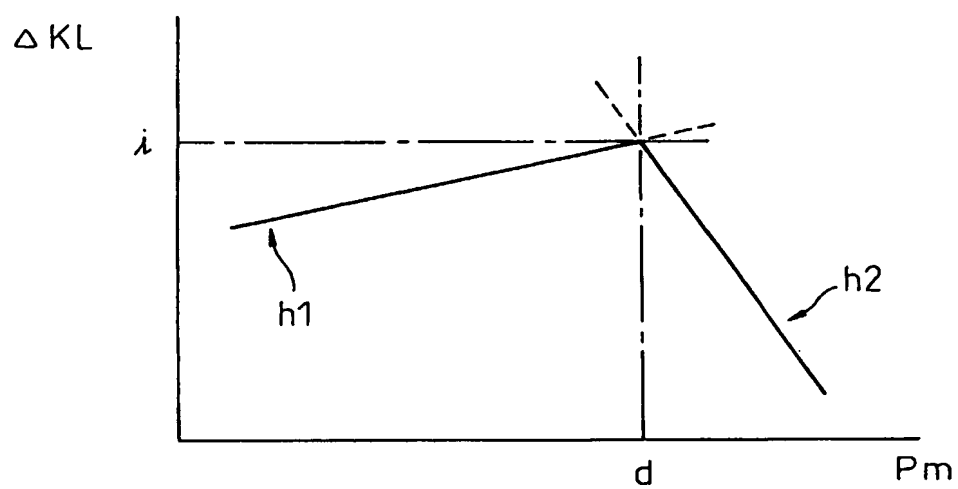
34/42

Fig.43



35/42

Fig.44



36/42

Fig. 45A

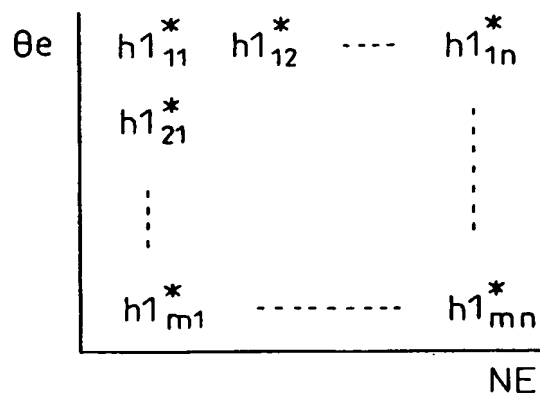


Fig. 45B

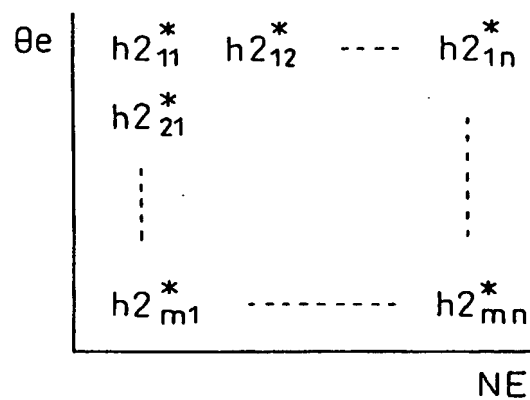
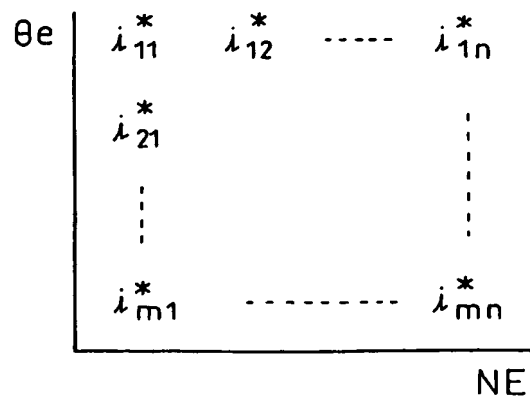
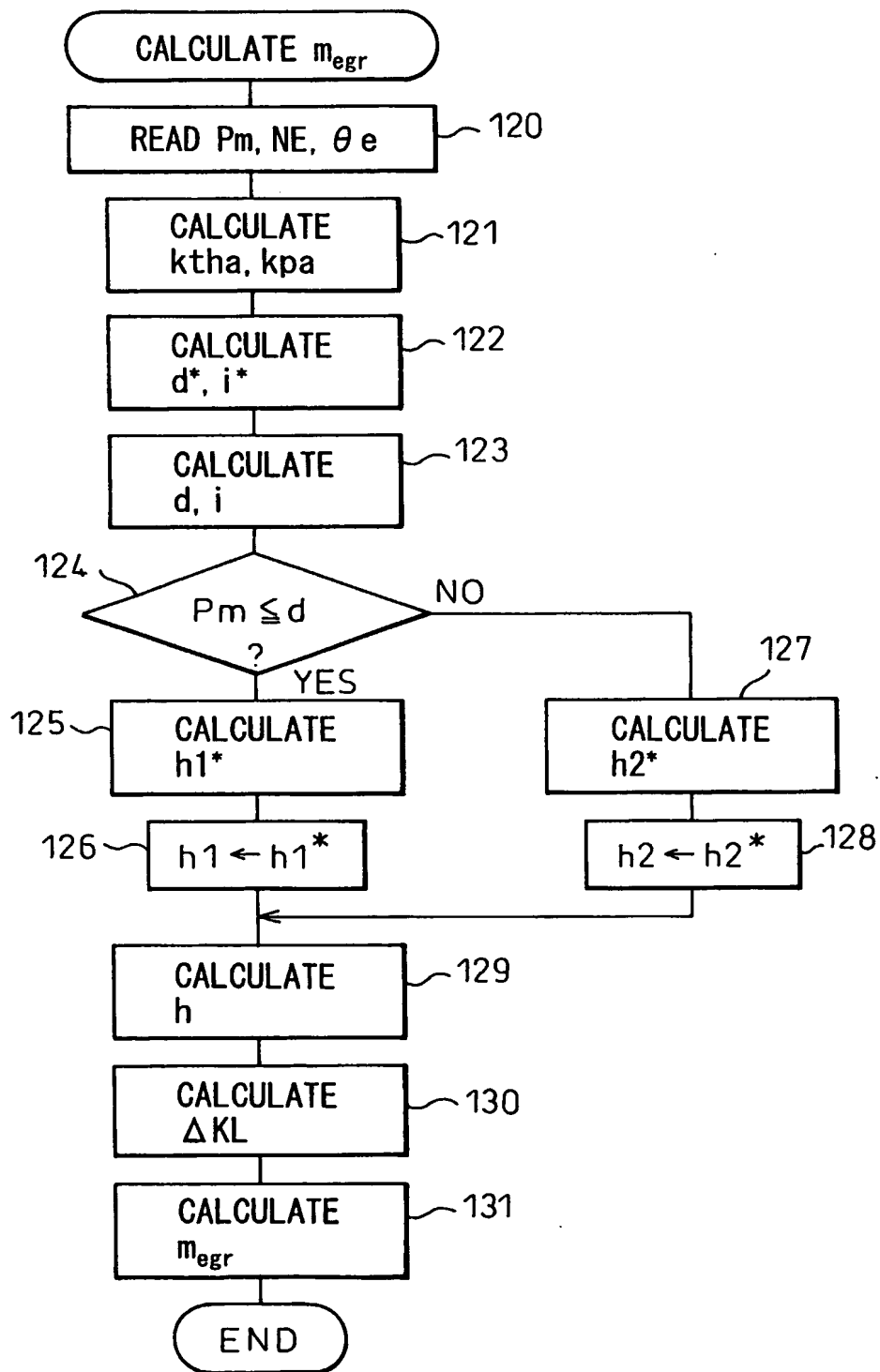


Fig. 45C



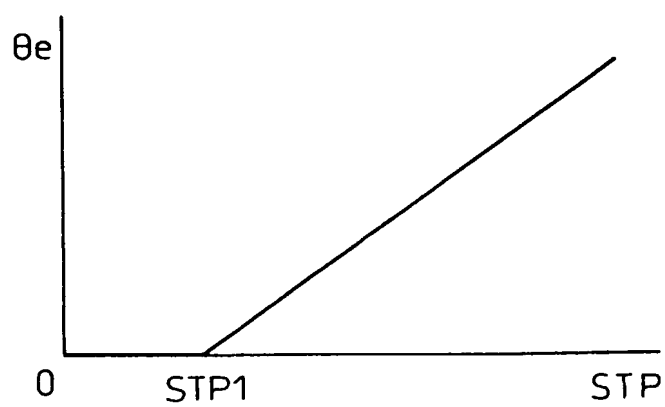
37/42

Fig.46



38/42

Fig.47



39/42

Fig.48A

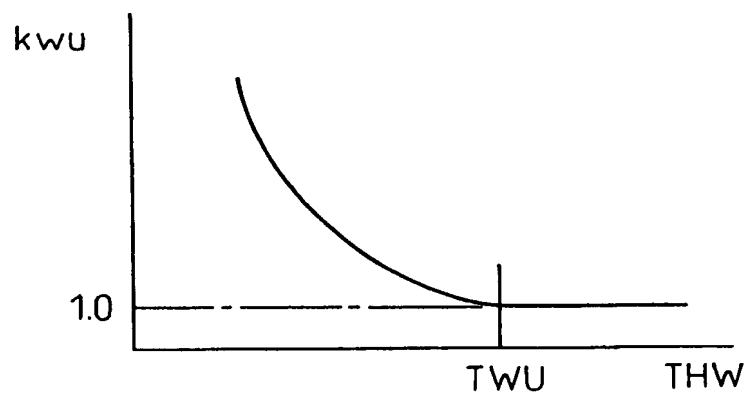


Fig.48B

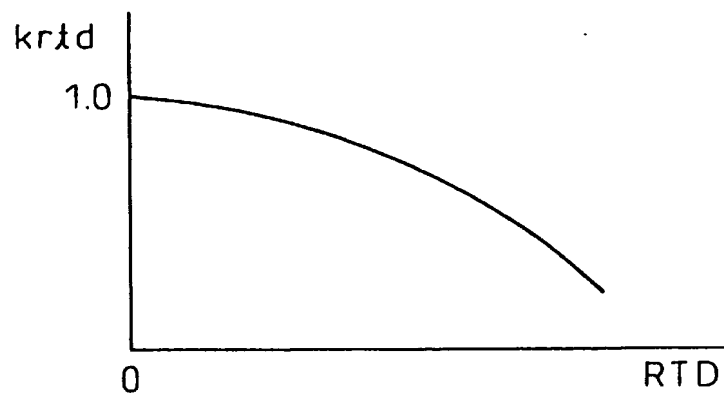
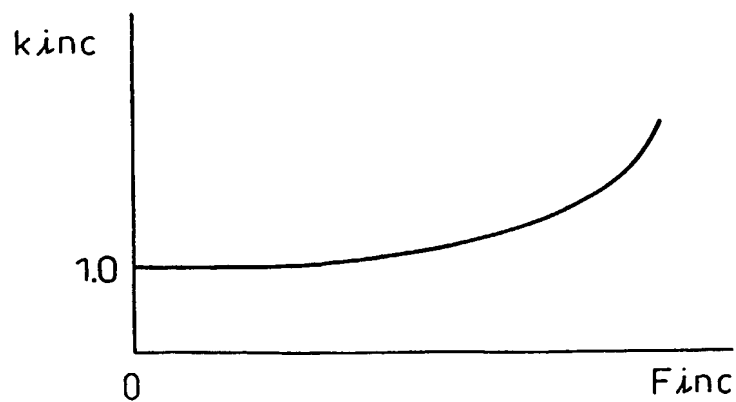
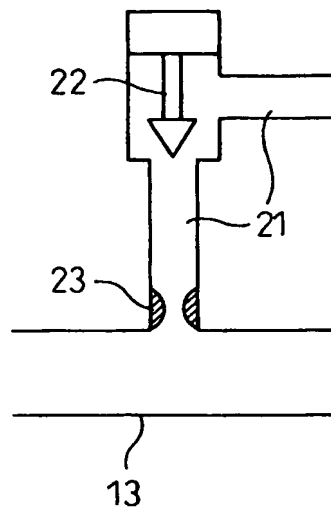


Fig.48C



40/42

Fig. 49



41/42

Fig.50A

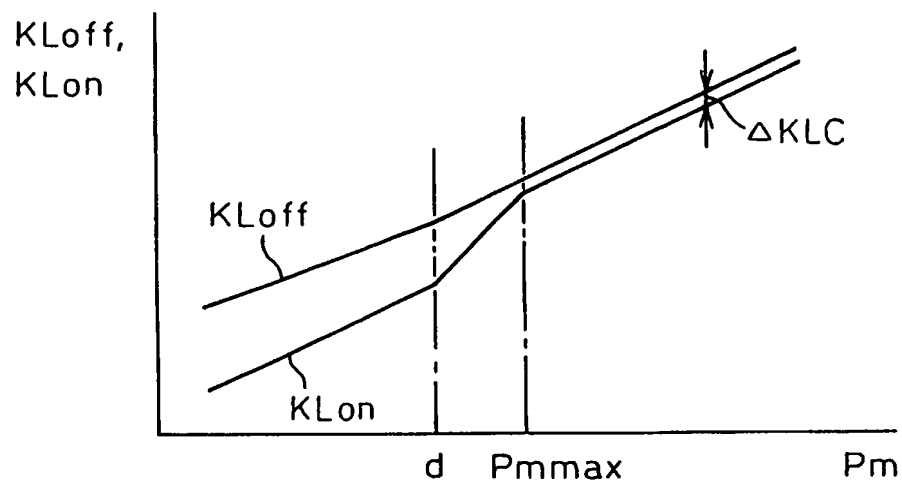
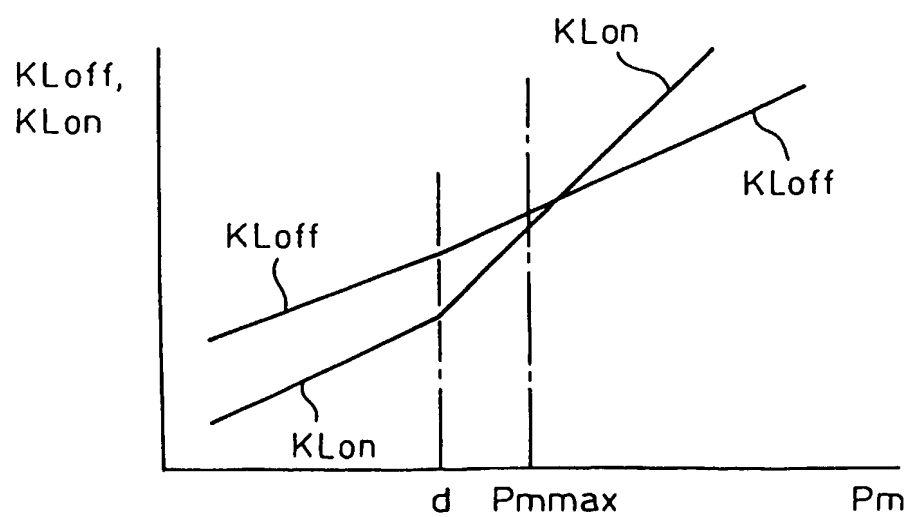


Fig.50B



42/42

Fig. 51A

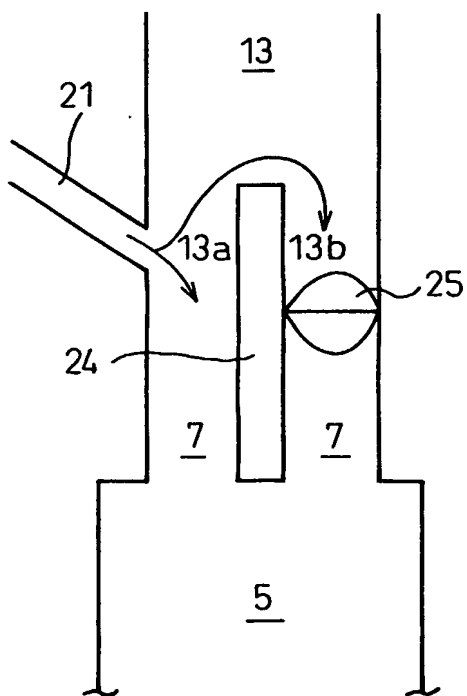
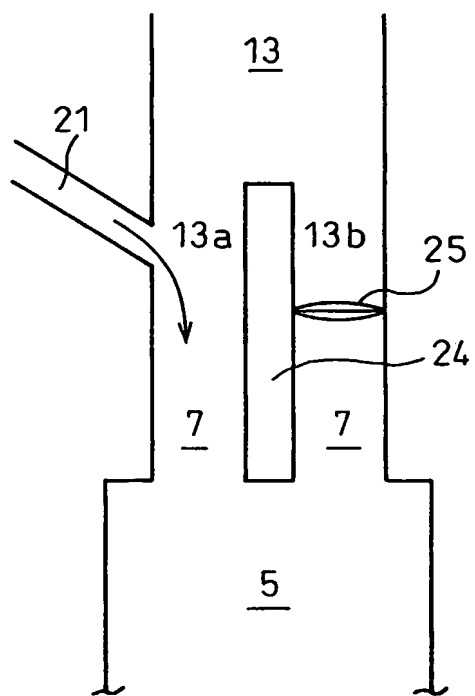


Fig. 51B



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/JP 03/15901

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 F02D35/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 F02D F02M

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 646 709 A (HONDA MOTOR CO LTD) 5 April 1995 (1995-04-05) column 12, line 1 -column 16, line 16 ---	1,2,8,9, 14,15, 21,22
X	US 6 247 457 B1 (MALLEBREIN GEORG) 19 June 2001 (2001-06-19) column 6, line 57 -column 7, line 10 column 8, line 5 - line 14 figure 3 ---	1,8,14, 21
A	US 6 253 750 B1 (COATESWORTH TIMOTHY A ET AL) 3 July 2001 (2001-07-03) column 11, line 44 - line 65 column 12, line 20 - line 30 --- -/--	3,10,16, 23

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

2 Apr11 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

14/04/2004

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Röttger, K

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/JP 03/15901

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>DE 198 50 127 A (TOYOTA MOTOR CO LTD ;NIPPON SOKEN (JP)) 6 May 1999 (1999-05-06) abstract</p> <p>-----</p>	<p>3,10,16, 22</p>

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No
PCT/JP 03/15901

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